



INDEPENDENT

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MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 1995

INSIDE

INDEPENDENT WEEK
Our smart guide to the next seven days, page 2



THE MAN WHO INVENTED ANIMAL RIGHTS
A new series on thinkers of the nineties.
Part one: Peter Singer, page 19

WIN A SKI HOLIDAY TO COLORADO
Plus K2 skis and snowboards, see page 25

Scheme to sell scratch cards in pubs provokes church fury

CHRIS BLACKHURST and REBECCA FOWLER

Scratch cards have gone on sale in pubs across Britain provoking a furious response from church leaders and prompting calls for the sales to be banned. Ofot, the lottery watchdog, is being urged to launch an investigation into the running of the game, exactly a year since tickets first went on sale.

part of a pilot scheme. Traditionally, the law has discouraged mixing gambling and alcohol. The trial has fuelled concern that Camelot and the Government are exploiting the popularity of the game. More than £4.5bn worth of tickets and cards have been sold in its first year.

Among the most outspoken critics is the Church of England. "The House of Bishops has expressed concern about the lottery from the outset, and this is going to make matters even worse," a Church House

spokesman said. "Introducing cards in pubs will only compound the problems surrounding the lottery and increase the gambling mania it has brought." The Rt Rev David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, has called for the sale of scratch cards to be suspended altogether. "I am increasingly concerned by the ready access to instant games, which are believed to be compulsive in character. Until proper research

has been completed, I would encourage a suspension of issuing new licences," he said. A confidential Camelot briefing document leaked to the Independent highlights the game's huge success. It shows that many people who can least afford it are spending on it, and acknowledges that charities have been hit by reduced donations.

Three in four households - around 30 million people - play the lottery each week. Average weekly spending is £2 on the big game, £1.50 on scratch cards. The weekly on-line draw accounts for 75 per cent of sales, and scratch cards 25 per cent.

Research for Camelot by AGB International shows that the weekly draw is more popular among the social category C2, skilled manual workers, than any other group. AEs account for 20 per cent of the adult population, but only 17 per cent of ticket sales; whereas C2s, 24 per cent of the population, buy 31 per cent of tickets.

There is concern that Camelot is overselling the game to get the nation hooked. One newsagent in the east of England said he was shocked when a Camelot representative last month suggested that he should train his staff to tell customers to spend loose change on scratch cards. "This representative said we should tempt customers into buying more tickets," said the newsagent, who wished to protect his identity. "He said we



Pint and a punt: Scratch cards and drinkers in a London pub

Inside: Dream machine that seduced a nation, page 3

TURN TO PAGE 3

Shell 'has no intention' of pulling out despite execution of rights campaigner

Pressure mounts for Nigeria oil ban

STEVE CRAWSHAW
Auckland
JAMES ROBERTS

Just two days after Ken Saro-Wiwa was hanged in a Port Harcourt prison in an act described by John Major as judicial murder, Britain and Nigeria's other main trading partners resisted pressure for an oil embargo against the military regime that executed him.

In London, the son of the executed writer called for a boycott of Nigerian oil exports. Arriving back in Britain yesterday from the New Zealand summit, Ken Wiwa quoted his father as saying, before his death: "Nigerian oil is what sustains the Nigerian military dictators, enabling them to survive." Shell said it had no intention of pulling out of Nigeria last night, despite threats of an intensified international protest campaign. The company said it was still interested in going ahead with a £2.7bn gas investment project, even though the World Bank said it would withdraw its backing for the scheme. However, after Mr Major said he wanted to get in touch with Shell over its planned project, Shell said it would make a decision before the end of the year over whether to proceed.

A Shell International spokesman said: "We will not take any sudden or unconsidered action. We have a major commitment to the people of Nigeria and the Niger Delta."

Saro-Wiwa had led a campaign of self-determination for the 500,000-strong Ogoni minority in Nigeria, and he and eight other members of his movement were sentenced to death for the murder of four pro-government Ogoni chiefs, after a trial condemned around the world as a travesty.

'Lord take my soul'

Saro-Wiwa's executioners needed five attempts before succeeding in hanging him, according to newspapers in Lagos. "Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues," were reported to be his last words. At one point, Saro-Wiwa is said to have asked: "Why are you people treating me like this? Which type of country is this?" Only hours after the death sentences, were upheld, nine

The subject of sanctions was hardly discussed during Commonwealth leaders' weekend discussions at the luxury New Zealand resort of Millbrook, near Otago.

The leaders returned from their weekend retreat with a package which spells out what Mr Major called the "ladder of measures" which may be used, to keep member countries on the democratic straight and narrow. The package is applicable not just to Nigeria, but to any other country which appears to breach certain norms.

Foreign ministers of eight countries will form an action group, to deal with "serious or persistent violations" of those norms. Nigeria, however, faces expulsion from the Commonwealth within two years unless it reforms.

Speaking to journalists at Auckland airport before he left New Zealand, Mr Major indicated his reservations about imposing sanctions on Nigeria: "Would they cause worse unemployment, worse poverty, worse starvation than is already suffered?" However, the Nigerian human rights activist Innocent Chukwuma, also speaking in Auckland, said of the oil industry: "The proceeds are go-

ing into private accounts. It doesn't even get to the people."

Mr Major suggested that the package of measures gave a clear signal for the future. "If the Commonwealth had not risen to this challenge - then it would have been apparent to people that those principles [the Harare declaration of 1991, which emphasised human rights] were not worth the paper they were written on. I think after the last couple of days, people know that the Commonwealth are serious about those principles."

By far the biggest importer of

Nigerian oil is the United States, but White House sources yesterday said the US had no plans to enforce any unilateral oil sanctions against Nigeria. Officials indicated the US would be prepared to contemplate participating in United Nations actions to put pressure on the Lagos regime. President Bill Clinton has not made any public statements on Nigeria since the executions.

Mr Major announced a complete British arms embargo on Nigeria, but implicitly acknowledged that the significance of such an embargo will be largely symbolic. The policy on defence sales is already "highly restrictive".

In Britain, environmental and human rights groups meet today with Ogoni representatives to plan an intensified campaign against the Nigerian government and Shell, which is accused of damaging the environmental in the Ogoni area.

Sanctions dilemma, page 10

Mandela under fire, page 11

Leading article, page 20

Another view, page 20

The Commonwealth after Nigeria, page 21

Miles Kingston, page 21



Face of defiance: Ken Wiwa, son of the executed campaigner, at Heathrow airport yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

The pay's the thing in Labour's theatre plan

DAVID LISTER
Arts Correspondent

The Labour Party is planning to introduce "pay what you can" nights at theatres throughout the country in a radical plan to broaden the appeal of the arts. The party has already begun talks with the 30 main region-

al theatres, with a view to allowing audiences on Monday nights to pay what they feel like. Mondays are traditionally quiet nights for theatres, and Labour's arts team feels that the scheme would bring in new and less affluent audiences.

The plan will form a key part of Labour's arts campaign,

which it will launch next summer, as part of its pre-general election campaign. The experience of the very few fringe theatres that have tried "pay what you can" nights is that they are self-financing. The theatre is full, and many people end up giving reasonable contributions.

Labour has no plans yet to

approach national companies such as the RSC and the Royal National Theatre. The party wants the scheme to have its blessing, but to be a voluntary initiative on the part of the theatres.

However, it may well have to wrestle with the question of whether it will have to subsidise

theatres to run the "pay what you can" nights.

Mark Fisher, a shadow spokesman on the arts, said yesterday: "What we want to be able to say is that under a Labour government, on a given night, you can go to any publicly-funded theatre, for example the Birmingham Rep,

and see a play for as much as you can afford."

Two London theatres, The Battersea Arts Centre and the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn have already run successful "pay what you can" nights.

Mr Fisher has also promised a government-wide policy for the arts.

IN BRIEF

Tory defends 'sleaze' deal
Former Conservative minister Patrick Nicholls yesterday insisted that a company which offered him a 5 per cent shareholding in return for lobbying ministers to buy its services was "well worth while promoting", as Labour responded with fury and other Tory MPs with private incredulity. Page 2

Rabin plot uncovered
Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet, was told of the plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin weeks before the assassination. The service failed to act because the informant did not specifically name the assassin, Yigal Amir. Page 9

Half surgery is day care
More than half of all patients treated from surgery waiting-lists are now in and out of hospital on the same day. The increase in day surgery has produced the first ever fall in the number of in-patients treated as overnight stays since 1948. Page 4



OVER A BARREL

COMMENT

Niall Fergusson: Confessions of an admirer of Enoch Powell. Page 21

Steve Crawshaw: Nigeria is both a test and an opportunity for the Commonwealth. Page 21

Another View: Lord Melchett on Shell's corporate responsibilities. Page 20

Ruth Dudley Edwards' Diary. Page 19

Leading article: "It should be illegal for newspapers to engage in financial transactions - in fact or in promise - with witnesses until a trial is over." Page 20

Weather: Most areas will be mainly dry and bright with some sunshine and light breezes. There will be some rain, especially towards the south-west. Section Two, page 21



England hit for six
England's cricketers lost their last match before the first Test when South Africa's A team recorded a comfortable six-wicket victory in Kimberley. Page 32

Reaching twin peaks
When the Sun's Page Three girl sticks her chest out this Friday, she will be marking 25 years of topless titillation that boosted the paper's circulation and survived attempts to have it banned by law. Page 7

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As usual, the most scenic route between Alleppey and Otilon is completely under water.

The Arabian sea coastline of Kerala in south India is characterised by fine beaches, cool plantations of shady coconuts, palms, thatched villages, and an altogether more tranquil way of life than you'll find in Bombay, a short flight away.

At Cochin you'll find the celebrated Chinese fishing nets strung out like huge cobwebs, recalling Kerala's ancient links with the Far East. At Alleppey, an hour's drive further south, start the maze of backwater canals - "kayals" - that provide a unique opportunity to explore the quiet beauty of rural Kerala. Take a country boat, or one of the regular ferries (or - more expensively - hire your own craft) and prepare to be enchanted.

To The Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Cook Street, London W1A 2LN Tel 0171 437 3577 Fax 0171 494 1046
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INDEPENDENT week

...when stones are for sale, when stones are for removal and even Rolling Stone gathers no gloss

Weather
Cloud and patchy rain in the south with bright intervals mid-week. Temperatures usually mild (13 deg) but becoming cooler. Heavily dry and bright in the north with rain later in the week and a risk of frost. Temperatures mild (12 deg) but dropping.

SO that means the show in the GARDEN is drawing to a close. In some places frost has already blackened the fuchsias, geraniums, agaves, cannas and succulents. Now bring the sunlovers in for the winter.

OR watch Rob Roy on VIDEO (VHS) Liam Neeson is top-billed in this gritty swashbuckler and there's Tim Roth, John Hurt and Brian Cox as a trio of terrifying villains. Best of all there's Jessica Lange...

OR lull yourself to sleep with the BARGAIN audio pillow from Bedset Shops. Link to the TV, CD or radio and speakers will transmit without disturbing your sleeping partner. £15.95. Order: 01492 860860.

OR read a BOOK. Miserable Families by cartoonist Steven Appleby (Bloomsbury £11.99), is a black depiction of hateful fathers, objectionable wives, difficult children, and horrible pets.

OR try EATING in Rascasse, owned by Simon Gueller, which opens on Thursday in Leeds (0113 244 6811). He's a one-time associate of Marco Pierre White, so the food should be French and good.

OR if none of that appeals... TRAVEL. Go to Goa with Unijet (01444 451515) on a one week B and B deal to Silver Sand Holiday Village in North Goa for £359 £59 saving (available 18 November only).

Spouting

The new session of Parliament begins on Wednesday when the Queen makes "a Most Gracious Speech" from the House of Lords setting out the Government's programme. MPs will debate the proposals, Tony Blair and John Major will harangue each other, and first, two backbenchers will spout forth their loyal thanks. As an MP once told the House, their motion is "nearly always proposed by some genial old codger on the way out and seconded by an oily young man on the make."

Pouting

The Page Three girl is 25 years old this week. The first in the long line of Sun lovelies was 20 year old Stephanie Rahn who popped up on November 17. It hasn't all been frolics and fun. Debbie Linden suffered a well-documented fall into drug addiction. Sam Fox, now positively maternal, sued her father for £1.2 million. Is there life after Page 3? Jane Warner was reincarnated as the be-jodphured bottom on the cover of *Jilly Cooper's Riders*. See page 7.

Clouting

England's cricketers are back in the Republic 30 years on from the D'Oliveira affair for the first of five Tests, and face the alarming Allan Donald, who will unplug himself from his Walkman - he goes himself up with bursts of reggae - and unleash himself on Mike Atherton's team on a Pretoria pitch, which is quick and bouncy. England have lost six of their last eight Test series played overseas.

TODAY

Seriously rich

The British ex-wife of the Aga Khan, Princess Sultana - aka Sally Crocker-Poole - is to sell her collection of jewellery at Christie's in Geneva. The jewellery - one 13.8 carat diamond is valued at £5m - is said to be worth £10 million. A handy addition to her already substantial divorce settlement which includes a £3.5 million flat in London's Hyde Park, £900,000 to re-decorate it, and £177,777 in pocket money a month.

Coward 007

Noel Coward by Philip Hoare (Simon & Schuster, £25) From unpublished plays, correspondence and diaries found in a battered attache-case belonging to Coward's mother, Hoare has detailed his family background, childhood ambitions and meteoric rise to fame. He reveals his work during World War II as an undercover agent for the Secret Service.

Health Hezzard

Michael Heseltine goes into the London Clinic today to have a kidney stone removed. A doctor writes: A kidney stone is made up of minerals such as phosphate, calcium or uric acid which 'grows' in the kidney. It is thought that heavy drinkers are more at risk. The stone needs to be removed, either by breaking it up and waiting for it to pass naturally, or by putting a tube into the kidney, disintegrating the stone and removing it.

TOMORROW

Rigg-ma-role

Mother Courage and her Children. Diane Rigg teams up with director Jonathan Kent, and composer Jonathan Dove. This is a new version by David Hare who did the same job on Kent's *The Life of Galileo*. National Theatre, London SE1 (0171 928 2252).

Lights fantastic

Regent Street's lights are switched on a week after Oxford Street's by Lionel Blair, Britt Eland, and Rolf Harris. Apart from a six years of recession and darkness in the 1970s, the lights have lit up shoppers since 1854. There will be 8,328 lamps in the shape of crowns. Between now and December 25, £330m will be spent.

Chas and Chums

Prince Charles is 47. Other 47-year-olds: Jeremy Beadle, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Virginia Bottomley, Mark Phillips, Shaking Stevens, Nicholas Soames MP.

Lotts of it...

How does our lottery - one year old today - compare with the world? The Institute of Public Policy Research will tell us today. Six facts: Up to 30m play each week, we spend £2 a week on online tickets, £1.50 on scratch cards, it has created 127 millionaires, the biggest win is £22.6m, the chances of winning are one in 14m.

WEDNESDAY 15

Naval gazing

Closing date for bids for the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Those who have entered the race have remained secretive, though the University of Greenwich, in league with the National Maritime Museum have declared their interest. D-Day - hoteliers need not apply - is months away.

Slavery protest

Harry Wu (below), the Chinese-American human rights activist, is at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London at 1pm to highlight goods made in Chinese slave labour camps. There may be as many as 50 million - many political prisoners - in appalling conditions. He is expected to expose further atrocities.



Jack's final?

While England play Switzerland in a friendly at Wembley (Bring on Le Tiss, Tel), the Republic of Ireland travel to Lisbon in the final round of European Championship qualifiers. Jack Charlton's team will probably have to win to reach next year's finals. If they fail, expect Big Jack to announce his resignation.

THURSDAY 16

Star images

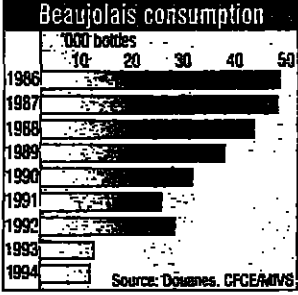
Rolling Stone: Images of Rock 'n' Roll. This collection of photographs contains gritty images of stars spanning five decades including Elvis, Buddy Holly, Paul Weller and Michael Stipe captured by photographers such as Annie Leibovitz, David Bailey and Dezo Hoffman. (Virgin, £30).

Voting certainty

Algeria goes to the polls five years after the military 'cancelled' the Islamic Movement's victory. The more radical Islamic groups are unable or unwilling to run this time and incumbent president, Liamine Zeroul, is bound to win. The question is: will the electorate accept the result? Will bombs explode in Paris?

Drinkmanship

Will Beaujolais Nouveau survive anti-French sentiment or has interest fallen off since the 1986 yuppie peak? CND is selling Chateau Chirac to publicise its campaign against nuclear tests. This year's is fruitier, rounder, and lighter compared with 1994 which was tannic and hard.



FRIDAY 17

Love and hate

The Aberystwyth Film Festival premieres *Madagascar Skin*, filmed on location in Pembrokeshire and starring Bernard Hill and John Hannah. The acclaimed *La Haine* opens nationwide. Mathieu Kassovitz lights the fuse with this inflammatory black-and-white drama, which follows three young Parisian friends as they while away the day after the riot before. A passionate study of social breakdown through the eye of a poet.

Funny money

Go straight to a fortune... Monopoly is 60 years old. It has the same board and box, has sold 20 million copies with a turnover of £303million - monopoly money, of course. A celebration party will be held at the Park Lane Hotel, London with a £2 million set as its centrepiece. In World War II sets were produced with maps showing escape routes, files, local currency and compasses and despatched by the Red Cross to POWs.

Dole queue

The Republican Presidential hopefuls gather in New Hampshire for a gentle Q and A session to stake their claims to fight Bill Clinton. Robert Dole is miles ahead with a rag tag of nine at his heels. One of the more intriguing is Malcolm S. Forbes, son of the late multi-millionaire. He has no political background but he does have lots of money.

THE WEEKEND 18 / 19

Outside edge

If you have missed David Bowie and Morrissey so far, they are at the London Wembley Arena (£25 7.30pm). Bowie returns to the five circuit thankfully free of huge glass spiders. Who knows what else he'll bring instead? The songs from his thrilling new album *Outside* (RCA) will be a start - they're the best he's recorded in ten years.

All pints west

All eyes on Twickenham for more South Africans. This time England's the champions on a big day for Twickenham. They will provide a test for an England team - which could feature South African players as England's fly half - rebuilding in the post-Andrew Moore/Rhodes era. This important match also marks the official opening of the £2 million West Stand, completing the £70 million rebuilding program begun five years ago. This will increase the ground's capacity to 75,000. The Scrum Bar under the East Stand will need to almost double its staff to 300 to cope with the thirsty masses, expecting to sell 60,000 pints at each match! Kick off: 2.30.

Sun bargain

Now for the first sun-powered watch. Junghe's Mega Solar Ceramic time piece cuts a futuristic dash with a strap that artfully conceals a radio-controlled watch antennae and a six month power reserve. It's a mere £275. Contact 01908 220311.

Going for the juggler

What's the collective noun for a group of PR consultants? The long such assembly will convene at Stratford-upon-Avon for the annual conference for the Institute of Public Relations. Delegates, bombarded by workshops and threatened by downsizing will study image consultancy and psychology. They will be urged to "take risks and lower the pressure at the same time." With juggling classes.

IN

The Independent this week:

FRANK SKINNER: From fantasy world to London Palladium. MARTIN SCORSESE: Back in NY badlands with de Niro. Plus: Randy Newman, Jah Wobble

WIN

Holiday for two skiing in Cortina plus £2 skis and snowboards to win. See Page 25 for today's wins one and two. Congratulations to Greg Blackland from Wans who has won our Mercedes S

Last week's winner

Farmer David Cannon, who sprayed manure over the Nat West in Newcastle for what he claimed was mismanagement of his account. He was fined £2,500. A cheap price for such sweet - if smelly - revenge.

EDITED BY RICHARD HOLLEDGE • FAX 0171 293 2051

Former minister defends deal in sleaze row

The former Conservative minister Patrick Nicholls yesterday insisted that a company which offered him a 5 per cent shareholding in return for lobbying ministers to buy its services was "well worth while promoting", as Labour responded with fury and other Tory MPs with private incredulity.

Mr Nicholls sought to defend his actions - which were within the rules until they were changed in last Monday's Commons vote - by suggesting the only difference between him and the two MPs disciplined for accepting "cash for questions" was that they were prepared to

John Rentoul on the MP accused of lobbying in return for profits

act for concerns they "knew nothing about".

Mr Nicholls, in a letter to World Water Services obtained by the *Sunday Mirror*, promised to try to persuade ministers that their departments should buy its products in return for a shareholding if it made a profit. The new rules ban advocacy on behalf of interests from which MPs could benefit in future.

Mr Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge in Devon and a former

Environment Minister, insisted he had received no money and declared his unpaid interest in the company, formed to sell a water purifying system. Mr Nicholls resigned as adviser to WWS after Monday's vote.

John Prescott, deputy Labour leader, condemned Mr Nicholls. "His boasting of his influence is quite nauseating, while his hopes of a fast buck as a result of it could not be clearer," he said.

Mr Nicholls's letter appears to be a textbook example of the kind of lobbying which would have been banned even under the more limited proposals backed by John Major - and defeated by the opposition and 23 Tory rebels on Monday.

Mr Nicholls wrote: "I can provide access to departments of state. The problem is that if a private person or company writes in without introduction, the letter will probably never be seen by a minister."

"Because I understand Whitehall, both from my present position as an MP and more particularly from my time in government, I can ensure that we are given a hearing. I can do that by using my own credibility with ministers to promote what WWS has to offer, thus ensuring that we meet officials at a level where decisions are made rather than papers simply filed."

In Monday's debate, Mr Nicholls had attacked the appointment of an independent commissioner, Sir Gordon Downey, to oversee MPs' ethics. "We got into this position... because two stupid, silly, greedy Members did something that most of us would never do," he said, referring to Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick, who were willing to accept cash for questions from reporters posing as business men.

Yesterday Mr Nicholls said they "were taking cash for questions, from concerns they knew nothing about, for a product they knew nothing about. This [WWS] was a company well worth while promoting, from a West Country point of view."

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, took grateful refuge behind the new commissioner on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost*: "I have no detailed knowledge of this issue except what I have read in the papers, but there is now a parliamentary commissioner who can examine these matters."

Mr Nicholls's judgment has already cost him his ministerial career. He resigned from his post in 1990 after being found guilty of drinking and driving.



Food for thought: Patrick Nicholls at his seat in Teignmouth yesterday Photograph: Apex

Heseltine backs debate on Scott report

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Government has "every right" to reject the Scott report's expected criticisms of ministers' conduct in the arms-for-Iraq affair, Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine said yesterday.

"It must be a matter of judgement in the light of the con-

clusions and of the evidence," he said on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost*. "You can't say whatever comes out of it we will sign up to it in advance. But what you can say is that there is somebody who has seen all the evidence, will publish all the evidence and will publish his conclusions, then there will be a proper debate. It is right that should be the position."

Asked if the Government might disagree or reject the findings, he said: "We certainly have every right to do that if we should be so minded."

Sir Richard Scott's inquiry was set up after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial in which three men charged with illegally exporting military hardware to Saddam Hussein argued successfully that they acted with

the knowledge and tacit approval of ministers.

Mr Heseltine, who goes into hospital for the removal of kidney stones after a speech to the CBI today, was among a number of ministers who signed certificates withholding information from the court, but he amended the wording of his certificate to avoid the risk of sending innocent men to jail.

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Source: NOP Life survey for Abbey National Life July 1994. For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you we use record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. Life assurance products are provided by Abbey National Life plc. Stopping premiums in the early years may result in a surrender value which is less than the premiums paid. The value of investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise, is not guaranteed and, therefore, you may not get back the full amount you invest. Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom. ABBEY NATIONAL PLC, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION AND UNIT TRUST PRODUCTS.

IN BRIEF

Queen leads silent tribute

The Queen yesterday led the nation in a two-minute silence in remembrance of the war dead. All the senior members of the Royal Family except the Queen Mother were at the Cenotaph in Whitehall for the Remembrance Sunday service, observing the 11am silence between the sound of Big Ben and the firing of a field gun. More than 10,000 war veterans took part in a record according to the Royal British Legion. Political leaders and representatives of Commonwealth governments joined the Queen in laying wreaths.

Bus firebombed

Two men were being questioned by police after an alleged firebombed bus on Newbury, Berkshire, on a proposed route of the A34 pass. Jeremy Middleton, Amanda Rothwell, 25, and the son Benjamin, six, were unhurt.

Ecstasy fears

A girl was critically ill in hospital after taking an ecstasy pill at 18th birthday party in Luton, Bedfordshire. Police warn that the drugs may have been adulterated and could be fatal.

Training flaws

Those most in need of training to break free from benefits being sidelined by the Government's training programmes, Institute of Employment Studies warned. People with physical and mental disabilities, ex-offenders, ethnic minorities, limited English and the mentally ill lose out because payers are linked to rigid outcome gaining a qualification or job.

Severn jigsaw

The 180-ton "missing" piece of the central bridge for the £336 Second Severn Crossing has been slotted in. The final three sections to join the bridge to the Welsh viaducts should be completed early next month.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	£5.40	Norway	£5.0
Belgium	£5.40	Italy	£4.50
Canada	£5.40	Madagascar	£5.0
Cyprus	£5.40	Malta	£4.00
Denmark	£5.40	Norway	£5.0
Finland	£5.40	Portugal	£5.0
France	£5.40	Spain	£5.0
Germany	£5.40	Sweden	£5.0
Greece	£5.40	Switzerland	£5.40
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Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, telephone 0928 402495.

The year of the lottery: Money continues to flood in but so does criticism of 'elitist' grants system considered to lack vision

Dream machine that seduced a nation

REBECCA FOWLER

The real winners of the National Lottery were always supposed to be the worthy causes, which have received more than £1bn in its first year. But has the so-called "dream machine" and the unprecedented injection of money into public projects succeeded in uplifting the nation?

Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, said: "This is the most successful lottery of all time. It has generated more money more quickly than any other lottery in history."

Yet last week Hugh Colver put it differently on his resignation as director of communications of the Tory party. "The National Lottery is an example of how to turn a public relations triumph into a disaster," he said.

The first distribution of grants by the five boards, representing arts, sports, charities, heritage and the millennium, has given plenty of ammunition to critics who predicted the lottery would emerge as a "tax on the poor" to fund the pastimes of the rich.

Among the most prominent grants are £55m to redevelop the Royal Opera House in London, £50m for a new museum of modern art on the Thames, £30m for the Sadler's Wells Foundation, £15.8m for the Royal Court Theatre, and £13.3m to buy the Churchill papers, many of which arguably already belonged to the nation.

However, despite the emphasis placed on the more lavish projects that have received funding, only 3 per cent of the 2,300 grants made so far have been for more than £1m. More than two-thirds are for less than £100,000, and two-thirds of grants have also been paid outside the capital, although there is still concern that the most needy causes, especially in inner cities, have not benefited.

But as £30m continues to flow into the good causes kitted each week, the question looming further down the road is not who gets the money, but whether we will have enough worthy causes to support.

Where are the visionaries ready to transform Britain's cultural skyline? The former British lotteries of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries gave us the British Museum and



Lovely money: Anthea Turner posing for an official publicity photograph for the National Lottery

Westminster Bridge. Australia's lottery gave it the Sydney Opera House. On one hand the lottery has been accused of elitism, and on the other it has been attacked for a lack of imagination.

Keith Cooper, spokesman for the Royal Opera House, said Britain has been so down-trodden by decades of cuts in public spending, leaders in the arts have forgotten how to dream of grand-scale projects.

"We're having to do an awful lot of catching up just to stop the great buildings we do have from falling down, and although

it looks as if we're being incredibly greedy, we're making up for years of struggle," Mr Cooper said. "There has been a siege mentality, in which people have not had any air to develop. Whether in the fullness of time, we can be encouraged out of this slightly amateur mentality, and become more like the rest of Europe in vision remains to be seen."

A comparison of the British lottery with other lotteries worldwide by the Institute of Political Policy Research, to be published next month, looks at

the direction in which the grant-making process, currently limited to funding only capital projects, may go.

The Nordic countries, which have among the highest levels of lottery ticket sales, have altered the way in which money is distributed. When Finland launched its lottery, it had expected to be able to give modest support to the arts. Now almost every artistic endeavour is supported by lottery funds.

"The conclusions we draw ultimately is that the public in Britain should have a much

greater involvement in where the money goes in relation to the good causes, as they do elsewhere in Europe," said Jim McCormick, co-writer of the survey. "It comes down to accountability, and involving citizens much more."

The real winners so far have been the modest community and arts causes, many of which were on the brink of collapse. Town halls, village greens, sports clubs and amateur dramatic societies have been given a new lease of life across Britain.

Among the projects saved

from the brink is Zippo's Academy of Circus Art. It is a travelling school providing training in circus skills, which received £48,000 for a new tent. "It arrived last week, and it was absolutely amazing to see it going up," said Verena Cornwall, manager of the academy.

"We had run out of people to ask for more money, and there's no doubt the school would have been forced to close if we hadn't had this grant. The lottery has saved the circus school."

A host of brass bands, once supported by the mining in-

dustry, have also been buoyed by the lottery. The Morecambe Youth Band received £48,000 for new instruments. "When it costs £5,000 to buy a new tuba, and you only get £200 for a park concert how do you survive?" said Bernard Vause, musical director of the band. "We were thrilled. The lottery is providing people like us with money that was never dreamed of."

■ Saturday night's winning lottery numbers were: 23, 28, 48, 10, 7 and 30 with the bonus number 3. Five tickets shared the £8.5m jackpot.

Scratch cards move into pubs

From page 1

they buy a scratch card as we hand them change. I said I believed in giving people free choice."

The move to introduce the lottery into pubs came from the beer industry, and from confectionery and tobacco suppliers, who have lost out to consumers spending loose change on scratch cards rather than on chocolate and cigarettes.

Labour condemned the introduction of the lottery into pubs last night. Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's lottery spokesman, said that it raised serious questions about the running of the game.

"Alcohol and gambling often do not mix well... Under-age gambling and under-age drinking may well be facilitated by the installation of lottery machines in pubs," Dr Cunningham said.

"These matters should be rigorously investigated by Oflot and discussed in parliament before the nationwide introduction of lottery machines in pubs proceeds."

Camelot has also come under attack for the size of the jackpots, prompting calls for prizes to be capped. The single largest win in its first year was £22m, and it has created 132 millionaires.

The possibility of limiting prize sizes has been discussed with the Department of National Heritage and Oflot. But Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, defended the jackpots yesterday. "If you want to have a maximum return to good causes, all the evidence is that the big jackpots are what make more people play. Ten to twenty per cent more comes in to the good causes when you have a big jackpot," she said.

Mrs Bottomley, who plays the lottery as part of a family syndicate, also denied that the lottery has created gambling mania in Britain. "There are all sorts of ways in which people may spend their money unwisely," she said. "I don't think we can be that much of a nanny."

Camelot's kingpin explains lottery as a risky business

CHRIS BLACKHURST

David Rigg can squeeze in the *Independent* for 20 minutes, before an interview with Welsh radio. We are lucky: some days Mr Rigg, director of communications of Camelot, the National Lottery operator which today celebrates its first birthday, does as many as 20 radio interviews and nobody else can get a look in.

As we speak, an urgent message comes to ring Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1 and broadcaster of Saturday night's live lottery draw. "Tell him I'll call him back," draws Mr Rigg, at once managing to make himself and the *Independent* seem more powerful than the BBC.

In Mr Rigg's case, that is not far from the truth. His weekly draw programme brings 11 million viewers to the BBC every Saturday night. Like the BBC's viewing figures, Camelot's winnings are guaranteed. When the totals are added up for the first year the lottery will have sold close to £5bn in on-line tickets and instant scratchcards, and Camelot's profits will be about 1 per cent, or £50m.

For outspoken critics like Richard Branson, whose own non-profit bid to run the game was rejected, it is an obscene amount. For Labour, too, it is likely to prove too much.

Not so Mr Rigg and Camelot. He receives a salary of about £150,000 with more to come through the 50 per cent bonus due to all Camelot executives for launching the lottery off



Lucky man: David Rigg, Camelot's communications chief

time, another 50 per cent for exceeding annual targets and a further 140 per cent under a long-term incentive scheme.

For Camelot, its shareholders and senior executives, the money does not rain down but pours. "Camelot put in the lowest bid," Mr Rigg says. "We charged less than the other competitors." Profits, he declares, are not excessive.

"That is an extraordinarily low figure, even for a high volume, low-risk business," he maintains. Even supermarkets, which are also low-risk thanks to selling the bare necessities of life like food, he argues, do not have such a small margin.

But supermarkets have ongoing capital costs: Camelot, once the lottery was up and running, has had no such significant

expenditure. A bank credit line of £75m has barely been touched since its launch.

Like supermarkets, Camelot, argues Mr Rigg, is operating in a competitive environment. But what sort of competition is it where one company has the licence? Camelot is a monopoly provider that cannot fail.

"That always amuses me," Mr Rigg says, not smiling. "Back in May 1994, when we won the licence and six months before launch, we said sales would peak at £5.5bn giving total sales over the seven year licence of £32bn, with £9bn going to good causes. The great majority of commentators said it was unachievable."

Camelot, he says, faced heavy penalties if it was late at launch. "I am not sympathetic to the

view any fool could do it and it is money for old rope," he says. "Since we spend most time in this country moaning about great British cock-ups it is refreshing to have something that has gone spectacularly right."

While the public has taken to Camelot's product in such numbers that commentators were, as Mr Rigg rightly says, caught out, other factors have played a part in the company's success. Camelot was far quicker off the draw than anyone including Oflot, the regulator, ever imagined. Machines have been installed at a faster rate than was envisaged in the licence award.

The advertising campaign, "It Could Be You", has persuaded people to buy tickets because they feel they have as much chance as the next person rather than the realistic one in 14 million chance of winning.

All the press attention, including the much hyped weekly draw, inevitably has focused on the big winners. Losers are never mentioned.

As Camelot's own prize figures, leaked to the *Independent*, show, they are drawn from the least well-off groups of society. Socio-economic group DE - semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, trainees, long-term unemployed - make up 29 per cent of the population, yet they account for 31 per cent of sales of instant cards. C2s - skilled manual workers - and DEs, make up 53 per cent of the population yet account for 57 per cent of on-line and 56 per cent of instant sales.

Camelot, he says, faced heavy penalties if it was late at launch. "I am not sympathetic to the

'Mad cow' fears hit beef consumption

GLENDA COOPER

Nearly one in four people is eating less beef or has stopped eating it altogether as the result of fears over "mad cow" disease, a poll published today says.

More than half of those polled by BBC TV's consumer affairs programme *Watchdog* said they were very or fairly concerned about the risks posed by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which it is feared could be transmitted from cattle to humans.

A government report last month confirmed that the number of cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - the human form of BSE - doubled between 1985 and 1994, but this may be down to increased surveillance.

Last month it was revealed two British teenagers had CJD, heightening fears that it was possible for the infection to be transmitted. CJD, an incurable degenerative brain disease, is extremely rare under the age of 30, with only four other cases reported in the world to date.

In the poll of more than 1,000 adults, women were particularly concerned about BSE with 27 per cent reporting they had either stopped eating beef or were eating beef less (compared with 23 per cent of adults as a whole). Nearly 60 per cent of women said they were very or fairly concerned about BSE. Fourteen per cent said they never ate beef anyway. One in five women said children in their household had stopped eating beef or were eating beef less. Men were less concerned

with 75 per cent saying BSE scares had made no difference to the amount of beef they ate.

Government figures show that up to 600 cows infected with BSE are being eaten each week, it is claimed. Granada's *World in Action* reports tonight that the Ministry of Agriculture has been assuming that two cows with BSE have been eaten for every one diagnosed. Scientists claim that cases where infected cattle are not showing symptoms could be twice that of reported casualties.

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news

Hospital revolution: New technology transforms acute health care and brings first ever fall in patients staying overnight

More than half of surgery cases treated in a day

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

More than half of all patients treated from surgery waiting-lists are now in and out of hospital on the same day in one of the most dramatic transformations in treatment seen since the foundation of the NHS.

The increase in day surgery has produced the first ever fall – outside of periods of industrial action – in the number of in-patients treated as overnight stays since 1948. Treatments involving a hospital stay peaked in 1991, according to the latest Department of Health figures, with day-case treatment – usually surgery – becoming the most important form of acute hospital care last year.

This revolution in the style and pattern of health care has come about in less than a decade as a wide range of new technology has become available from miniature cameras and lasers to new forms of wound closure and new-style stitches which “melt away”. Improved anaesthetics and better anaesthetic techniques have contributed to the change, as has the way hospitals have organised the care they provide.

In the mid-1980s, barely 20 per cent of treatments were day cases. By 1989 that had risen to one-third, but since then day

cases have been increasing at a rate of about 20 per cent a year, the rise more than offsetting small falls in the numbers of in-patient treatments.

Brendan Devlin, president of the British Association of Day Surgery, said conditions now widely treated on a day-case basis include hernias, varicose veins, much knee surgery, cataracts, and a wide range of gynaecological procedures, including treatments for cancer or pre-cancer of the cervix and the womb. Some of the rise in day-case treatment has occurred because surgeons have begun to abandon unproven procedures such as the routine removal of tonsils and adenoids.

“In the past, surgery for hernias would have involved a hospital stay of three to six days,” Mr Devlin said. “A cataract patient might have been in for five days and varicose veins for six days or more.”

“The change occurred because surgeons have learnt both that they can get better results with day surgery and that patients want to go home, not be in hospital.” Big improvements in anaesthetics, both general and local, have allowed patients to recover faster and have been as important as new surgical techniques. “An equally big issue has simply been developing systems for day surgery

so that it is well planned, patients turn up on time and are treated in dedicated beds, not stuck at the end of a 30-bed ward in which everybody else is desperately ill.”

Worries still remain about how well surgeons are trained in the new techniques, Mr Devlin, who chaired a Royal College of Surgeons working party which recommended big improvements in training, said. “And there is an argument that some of these procedures need not be carried out by fully qualified doctors – that you could train up podiatrists to undertake day-surgery procedures on the foot, for example.”

With existing technology, he says, a limit has probably been reached on the number of procedures which can be transferred from standard in-patient treatment to day surgery. “I don’t think we are going to see the day when hip replacements or heart transplants are done as day cases.” But many surgeons still provide traditional treatment, and in time as much as 70 per cent of elective, waiting-list-type surgery could be done on the day without patients needing to stay in overnight.

The advent of day surgery is one reason why the NHS has managed to cope with rising demand, Mr Devlin added. “Day-case treatment lets you treat more patients for the available money. And careful day surgery done by experienced surgeons results in very little discomfort and very good long-term outcomes.”

The latest NHS statistics show health authorities bought 8.6 million treatments last year – a rise of 6.6 per cent. Of these, almost half were emergencies, admitted immediately. But of the 4.6 million waiting-list treatments, 2.4 million were day cases, a rise of 20 per cent on the previous year, while the number of in-patient treatments fell almost 2 per cent to just over 2.2 million.



Satisfied customer: After his operation Robert Pinckney says day surgery ‘helps you get back to normal as soon as possible’ Photograph: John Russell

Home in five hours after a hernia operation

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

Hernias – despite the jokes they bring about middle-aged men and trusses – can happen at any age, and one happened to Robert Pinckney, 20, a student at Roehampton Institute in south-west London, last February.

The bulge in his groin was not painful, but it was unsightly. And for someone who plays enthusiastic badminton, two or three times a week it plainly had to be sorted out.

A visit to his GP brought a hospital appointment a few weeks later and confirmation that an operation was needed. Mr Pinckney, a history and English student, put the operation off until the summer holidays for fear that if it was done in term-time it might hamper his degree work.

“I was told that would be all right and I was worried the operation would knock me back a bit and affect my course,” he said.

Operation day took him to the new, dedicated day-case surgery centre at Kingston hospital, where he was offered the choice of a general or a local anaesthetic.

“I’m a bit of a coward,” he said, “so I took the general. I didn’t really want to watch it happening.” In at 9am, he was scheduled towards the end of the morning’s operating list, so a couple of hours reading magazines was followed by the trip down to the theatre, the anaesthetic and the operation.

Study

He was home with his parents by 2pm – complete with an information pack about what he should and should not do, which backed up a leaflet and information he had been given at his original consultation where the day-case procedure had been explained to him.

The first day I was told to stay in bed, but on the second I had to go for a short walk each hour – just down the landing – and then back to bed. The third day it was downstairs, sitting in a straight-backed chair and then just gradually doing more. It was quite slow progress at first because I was doubled up a bit. But once I’d managed

to straighten up, by the end of the first week, it was then very rapid.

“Within 10 days I was doing really well.” At no point, he said, was it an agonising experience. “Obviously it hurt at first when I moved, but you had to do some of that to get back to normal. It was very uncomfortable, but not that painful.”

He went back to hospital after a few weeks for a quick check that all was well. But with modern wound closing techniques, there were not even any stitches to take out. “I’d been told not to lift anything for a few weeks and not to play football or anything like that for 10 weeks or so. They told me then I’d have to do something quite drastic to do any damage, but

still to avoid anything too strenuous for the next few weeks just fine now.”

The experience has led a fan of day-case surgery much prefer to be at his familiar surroundings and the family than be in hospital. And I think it’s psychologically good. Helps you get back to normal as quickly as possible.

Before day-case surgery, Pinckney might have had eight days in hospital – at acute NHS bed costs of hundreds of pounds a night. “I wasn’t looking forward to even a minor operation from my point of view, but really well,” he said.

How day operations have increased

Day cases	Ordinary in-patients
1992/93 +19.4 %	-1.3%
1993/94 +17.5 %	-3.2%
1994/95 +20.4 %	-1.9%

Source: Department of Health

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Beirut hostage war hero dies

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

Jackie Mann, who died yesterday aged 81, was among the bravest and the saddest of the Beirut hostages, the last Briton to be kidnapped, among the few not to be forgotten.

When you entered the dank and penurious apartment which he had shared with his wife Sunnie, the first thing you noticed on the walls were Mann's RAF Squadron badges, the names of Tangmere and Biggin Hill fading after years of Lebanese heat, along with the happier memories of his long-ago romance and marriage.

When he was released by his kidnappers in September 1991, at the age of 77, he had spent 865 days in captivity, all of them in solitary confinement, forced to eat the Arabic food he hated, and given no medication for the terrible, itching, burn-scars inflicted in the Battle of Britain. Frail and haggard after his release to Syrian security men, he angrily announced that his voice had gone "after two and a half years of chafing, of being told 'do this', 'do that', 'don't do that' and 'be quiet'."

He was brought back to Britain, given a Spitfire fly-past at RAF Lyneham and returned to the arms of his wife.

Sunnie Mann, who during his captivity had written a nostalgic book of their difficult life together—with his bank account sealed, she was desperate to find a means to support herself—was to die of cancer scarcely a year after his release. Squadron

Leader Mann lived on in Cyprus, unable to drag himself from the Mediterranean sun to a grey Britain that held nothing for him. He had been suffering from heart and lung problems, and died at his home in Nicosia.

He was a man who lived the greatest days of his life at an early age, shot down six times in his Spitfire before being so badly burned that he entered the "guinea-pig" plastic surgery hospital at East Grinstead. In 1941, with a painful new face, he met Sunnie, then a young attractive divorcee and part-time ambulance driver. The couple arrived in Lebanon in 1946—Jackie went to work for the new Middle East Airlines; Sunnie started a riding school in Beirut.

But by the start of the civil war in 1975, he was retired; his pension was collapsing with the devalued Lebanese pound, his marriage had long ago lost its magic. Their coastal apartment block had turned into a squalid building surrounded by militia offices. Jackie Mann was kidnapped near his favourite pub in May, 1989—perhaps because of some injudicious remarks he made about Salman Rushdie in front of a Shiite Muslim television cameraman. His captors, possibly Palestinians, treated him with contempt—as he did them—until the UN Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, secured his release.

Always fearing that the sacrifices of the Second World War were being forgotten, Mr Mann would probably have wished to die on no other day than Remembrance Sunday.

Obituary, page 18



Jackie Mann, who died yesterday, with wife Sunnie



Dozens of people queue each day outside Winchester Crown Court for a place in the public gallery of the Rosemary West trial

Photograph: Tom Pilsten

Newspapers facing fresh curbs

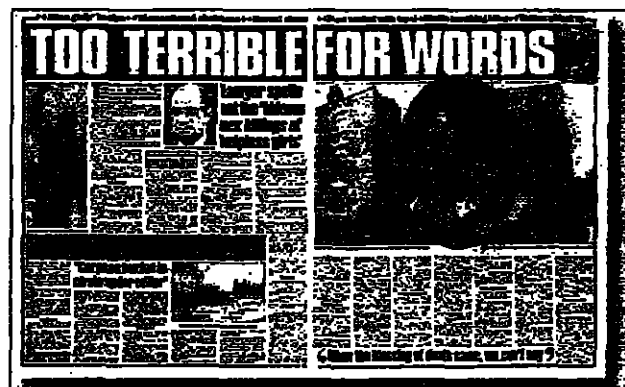
COLIN BROWN
and RHYS WILLIAMS

Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, is preparing to make a strong attack on the press over payments to witnesses in the Rosemary West trial.

The former Cabinet minister has told close colleagues that he is waiting until the trial is over, but he is planning to warn the press that they must show restraint or face action. The PCC's code of practice contains a clause forbidding "payment or offers of payment for stories, pictures or information... to witnesses or potential witnesses in criminal proceedings".

Several witnesses in the West trial have admitted having contracts with the media. Anne Marie Davis, Mrs West's step-daughter, received £3,000 from the *Daily Star*; Caroline Owens, who was attacked by the Wests in 1972, will eventually get £20,000 from the *Sun* and Kathryn Halliday, who said she

West trial: Wakeham concerned at cash deals with witnesses



Massive public interest in the Rosemary West case has meant detailed coverage in the national press

had a lesbian relationship with Mrs West, has been paid £8,000 by the *Sunday Mirror*. Stephen and Mae West, who have not given evidence, have been bought up by the *News of the World*.

The defence in the Rosemary West trial challenged the evidence of some witnesses in

court, warning the jury that the more sensational accounts they gave, the more the media would pay for their stories. Richard Ferguson QC, representing Ms West, told the court in Winchester that there may be an "element of amateur dramatics" in the way some witnesses gave evidence.

The Government backed off from legislation to curb the excesses of the press. But the PCC chairman fears the issue could be raised again, if self-regulation is seen to have failed. He has also privately expressed alarm that newspapers had come perilously close to being in contempt of court in other re-

cent cases. Eight newspapers have been referred to the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, by Judge Roger Sanders after a case concerning Geoffrey Knights was abandoned because of pre-trial reports. It could lead a redefinition of the law on contempt.

Lord Wakeham's concern re-

fects mounting worry in legal and political circles about the press's conduct in criminal trials. Mark Stephens, solicitor for the Taylor sisters, whose convictions for murder were quashed last year after prejudicial reporting of their trial, said paying witnesses could jeopardise criminal cases.

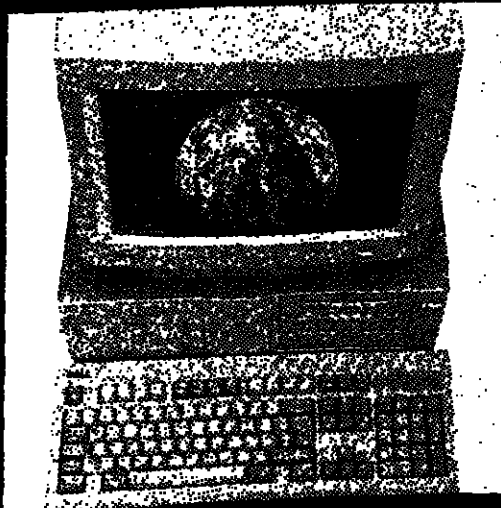
"It was an issue in the OJ case. People who think they may be able to sell their story... may enhance or add to their accounts. So the risk is outright lies or embellishment."

The problem you have as a lawyer when faced with this is that you don't know a witness has been bought, so you're not able to cross-examine them in a trial.

Lord Wakeham has told friends he finds some of the reporting on the trial in the West case rather too much to bear, and is thought to be considering an inquiry into the possibility of tightening of the code of conduct.

Leading article, page 20

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news

Divorced vicar: Sacked clergyman wins parish support as diocese ignores illegal services

Fighting spirit lives on in a country church

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

A Remembrance Day service in the Norfolk hamlet of Little Cressingham is about as English as you can get. The church was full and not very warm, so that the breath of the congregants steamed a little in the autumn air. Some wore their poppies pinned outside their Barbours; the hymns were traditional; the vicar looked high-minded and nervous – ascetic in his half-moon spectacles. Nothing could be more traditional – except that this service was illegal.

For the priest was the Rev Kit Chalcraft, and in the congregation was his wife, Suzanne Hall. Mr Chalcraft was sacked in February by the bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Peter Nott, who disapproved of the fact that Ms Hall is his third wife. Five of the ten parishes he looked after refused to accept his successor, the Ven Anthony Footitt, and claim to have unilaterally declared their independence from the diocese.

The rebel congregation now meets in each of its five churches in turn, among them St Andrew's, Little Cressingham. Even for Mr Chalcraft to preach is technically illegal, since anyone who preaches more than once in an Anglican church should have permission from the bishops. However, the diocesan authorities are making no effort to enforce the law, and hope that the whole thing will simply die away.

The rebels of Mr Chalcraft's congregation, however, believe they are standing up for principles more far-reaching than the right of a divorced priest to remarry as often as it takes to find happiness. They see their



Preaching to the faithful: The Rev Kit Chalcraft by the choir stalls of St Andrew's church, Little Cressingham, yesterday Photograph: Keith Whitmore

battle as one against wasteful and insensitive diocesan bureaucracy. Some believe they are returning the Church of England to the people, and that the end of their struggle will be a church purified: one returned to its roots.

You would not expect to find a revolution with such large ambitions in Little Cressingham, with its exquisite, but shrunken, church. Much of the original medieval building was blown down in a storm, and half the nave was bricked off in 1781.

The ruined portions outside suggest grandeur and holiness even more powerfully than the functioning inside. Perhaps it is a model for the Church of England after all.

The congregation of about 50 contained just three children, and perhaps five of the adults were under the age of 40. The couples were county-ish, confident men with large teeth, and worried-looking women.

Instead of an organ, there was a brass band accompanying the hymns; its performance possibly

accounting for the expression of anguish on one woman's face: she was a concert pianist.

They sang *I vow to thee my Country* and two verses of the national anthem. The sermon, in keeping with the occasion, rambled around the twin themes of war and peace without attaining mastery of either subject.

But that, too, is part of tradition. Country priests are meant to preach badly and do other things well, and there was no doubt of the affection in

which Mr Chalcraft is held by his congregation.

The service felt like a communal act of remembrance of the sort that is only possible in churches where the surnames of the congregation are the same as those on the village war memorial. It really did feel like the Church of England, or at least the church of an English community.

Such a feeling of community and belonging is certainly going to be needed if the Church of England is to pay its priests in

an uncertain future where most of the Church Commissioners' income will go on pensions.

Whether these villages could provide enough money to keep their traditional churches going in the long run is another question. St Andrew's, in its tiny hamlet, needed £50,000 over the past five years to make the structure safe – on top of the normal running costs.

And that is a problem less tractable, if less sexy, than the number of wives a vicar should be allowed.

Major vents anger over call for Sinn Féin talks

JOHN RENTOUL
and ALAN MURDOCH

John Major responded sharply yesterday to a call from his Irish opposite number, John Bruton, for the British Government to move towards all-party talks with Sinn Féin, as the rift between London and Dublin widened.

Mr Bruton was handed a note of the angry British response, expressing "dismay and astonishment", before he left the London hotel in which he made the speech on Saturday.

Yesterday morning, Mr Major said: "There is no purpose whatsoever in launching all-party talks until we have a basis that will make sure there is some chance that those all-party talks are likely to succeed."

He said it was not the Irish Prime Minister's fault that "we are not yet in that position, and neither is it the British Government's fault that we are not yet in that position."

Speaking in New Zealand, where he was attending the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, before departing for London, he added: "The problem above all lies with Sinn Féin and Sinn Féin's complete reluctance to tackle the question, even with an international body, of how their arsenal of weapons and explosives are going to be taken out of commission."

Mr Bruton was unrepentant yesterday, although a spokesman insisted he was not proposing immediate all-party talks, but "preliminary talks involving the two governments and Sinn Féin."

But Mr Bruton, who has so far been guarded and cautious in his public statements, left no

doubt that he wanted action by Britain to advance peace process.

He urged "early" talks, and dismissed previous British objections to development as "compassion in historical terms."

That prompted stinging criticism from a British Government spokesman, who pointed to Friday's discovery of 20 of explosives in the Irish public, near the border with Northern Ireland. He said that graphically illustrated the possession of arms was merely a minor obstacle.

The find was linked by the group Republican Sinn Féin (RSF), whose leaders had endorsed attacks on military targets.

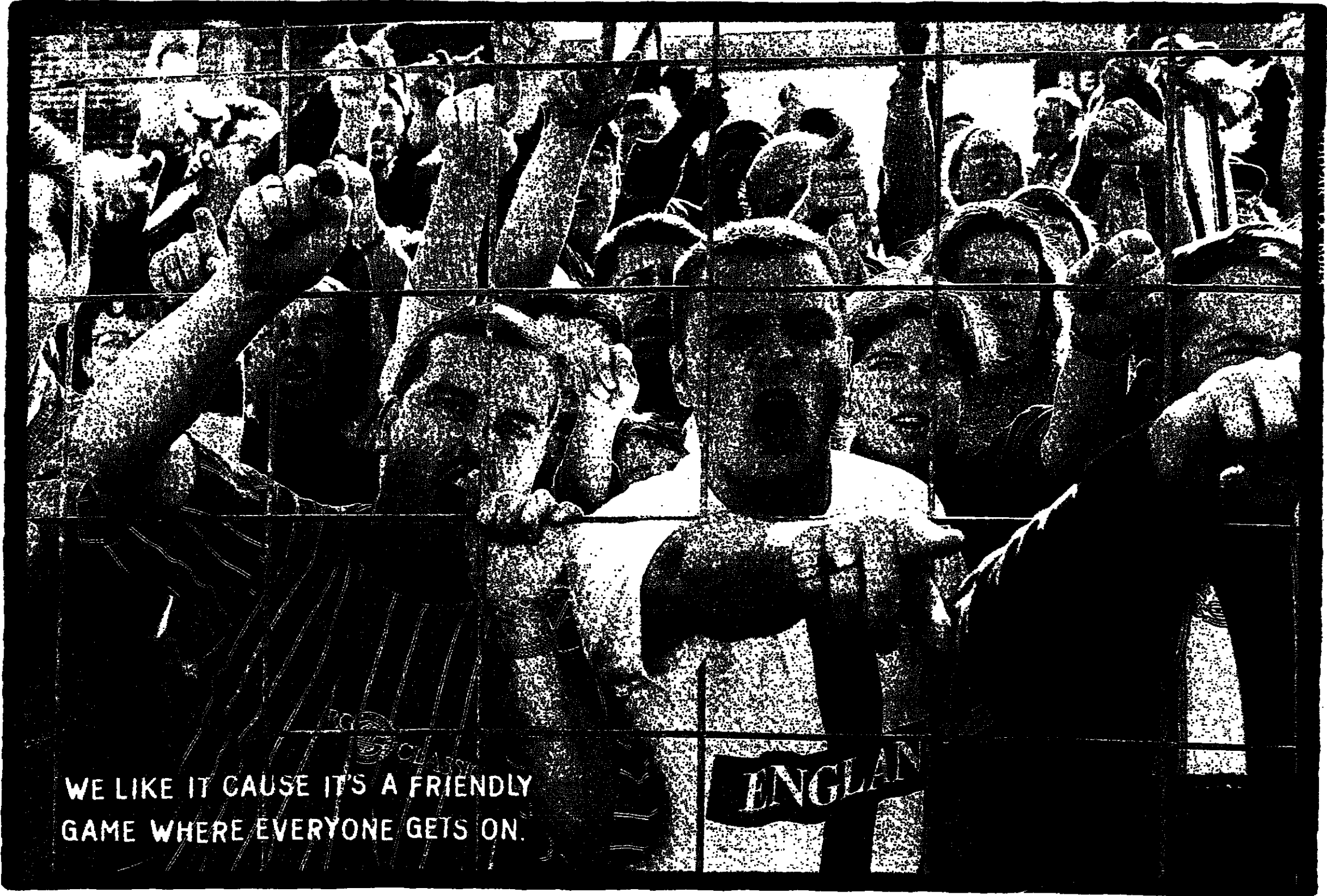
At its weekend conference in Dublin, vice-president Ward said the RSF, who from Sinn Féin in 1982, endorsed attacks on "the war machine".

RSF president O'Bradaigh said he passed a motion endorsing "right of the Irish people whatever degree of court and discipline force is necessary in resisting English aggression."

On Friday he said a wing of RSF, in parallel with Sinn Féin's connection to the IRA, "had not emerged," but yesterday this was not a formal denial it existed. "It's not our job to announce that," he said.

The RSF claims that since summer disillusioned Sinn Féin members in Belfast, Londonderry and London have been ceding to RSF, which has repudiated the IRA cease-a "surrender".

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Trivial Pursuit

it takes all sorts

2011/11/13

Pornography debate: Tabloid institution celebrates anniversary as opponents hope changing times will bring its demise



Naked ambition: former Page Three girl Tracy Kirby in her modelling days (above) and as she is now (below) hoping to make a new career in television with a show on Live! TV

Photograph: John Lawrence

Sunset looms as Page Three marks 25 years

LOUISE JURY

She has defied the feminists and the years. The glamour may have tarnished, her star faded, but when the *Sun's* Page Three girl sticks out her chest this Friday she will be marking 25 years of topless titillation.

On 17 November 1970, Sir Larry Lamb, the *Sun's* then editor, published the naked breasts of model Stephanie Rahn in his newspaper and a national institution was born.

The page's biggest successes became household names. It was a big weapon in the newspaper circulation wars. The bitter arguments over Clare Short's anti-Page Three Bill served to fuel the interest in the likes of Samantha Fox, Maria Whittaker and Linda Lusardi.

The Campaign Against Pornography was set up to support Ms Short and fight on. But time and the supermodel may now be its best chances of success. Two years ago, Rupert Murdoch, the newspaper's proprietor, conceded that the "Page Three lovely" might be past her sell-by date.

More significantly, the cult of the supermodel and her new found willingness to bare parts never bared before has dented the Page Three market. Once the fashion models started doing semi-nude calendars the pin-up lost popularity. Yvonne Paul, a former Benny Hill girl who runs a model agency, said:

"Page Three used to be a better career move than it is now, she said. "It used to mean the girl would move on to being a minor celebrity. I don't think that's going to happen again."

There is still money to be made, even though the *Daily Mirror* dropped its equivalent several years ago. A Page Three session - invariably with photographer Beverley Goodway, who has snapped more than 50,000 - will take three hours and pay £60 an hour, Ms Paul said. "Girls who work for *Tatler* or *Vogue* get £80 a day."

Tracy Kirby, 29, became a Page Three girl after a friend sent in her picture to a competition. She was embarrassed at first, but it was exciting. "You were a queen. You had a brilliant time."

Now she is trying to break into television with Live TV. Her past has been a mixed blessing. "I certainly wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now if it wasn't for Page Three. But people won't take you seriously. I've had to prove myself."

Today's "girls" know the heyday is over and there are problems, like nuisance calls. But she thinks the pictures are harmless.

Maria Whittaker, 27, was one of the stars. More than 3,500 turned up on a wet Wednesday to see her open a shop in Oxford Street. Now she is concentrating on a singing career and agrees a Page Three past makes it more difficult. "People imagine we can't talk and that we have no personality. But I'm glad I did it. I travelled the world, met lots of people, earned money."

The Page Three girl is losing her pull, relegated on occasion to page five or seven. On a busy news day she can vanish.

The Campaign Against Pornography is confident it is winning the battle. "Eventually it will go," spokeswoman, Andrea Alexander said.



Polly Toynbee

Context is the key in questions of taste

Analysis

Context is all. Spotty 14-year-old boys sniggering at lewd pictures of nude women is harmless enough. But those same pictures pinned up in a public place make another statement - a challenge, an aggressive proclamation that this is a male supremacy zone.

Clare Short, who twice attempted to get Page Three girls banned by law, never wanted pornography banned. She saw nothing wrong with men quietly indulging in their private masturbatory fantasies. Under the counter was fine, but displaying it on the shelves was not.

Girls they are - pouting, protruding, mindless, malleable, cheeky but willing. If the world were peopled by females such as these, men would have no problem with their shrinking role. These images keep women in their place, as objects designed for men.

There is no conclusive proof that pornography incites men to rape. Most of the evidence was sifted through on the Williams Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship suggests that rapists sought it out. Although given tortuous evidence to suggest sex crime rose wherever pornography was most available, that correlation never stood up to rigorous scrutiny.

No, the offence is not the existence of pornography, but the triumphalist flaunting of beasty images of women in public places. What could be more public than page three of the *Sun*? It doesn't much matter how much nipple or crotch is on show. What matters is the culture the pictures promote - a culture of abusing women.

Ban it? It was a bold campaign but doomed, and rightly. Bad taste and ideological affront are hardly sufficient grounds for censorship. Perhaps the Page Three girl will simply become an increasingly bizarre anachronism, the dirty delight of a shrinking band of inadequate, frightened little *Sun* men.

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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

15/10/95

Israeli security lapses: Shin Bet was told weeks ago about conspiracy to murder PM □ Thousands attend London memorial service

Secret police knew of plot to kill Rabin



Spillover outside the Albert Hall Photograph: Emma Boam

PATRICK COCKBURN
Tel Aviv

The Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, was told of the plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin weeks before the assassination, the authorities have acknowledged. The service failed to act because the informant did not specifically name Yigal Amir, the assassin who police now believe made at least five attempts to kill the Prime Minister.

Fresh evidence that the Shin Bet not only allowed Amir to fire two shots into Rabin's chest at point-blank range but had information about the group that was stalking the Prime Minister is bound to create fresh controversy about the security services in Israel.

Arik Schwartz, a soldier from the Golan brigade in which Amir also served, was arrested at the weekend. A cache of weapons, including hand grenades and explosives, was found at his parents' house. Police say the group, as well as killing Rabin, planned to explode bombs in Palestinian cities to stop Israeli withdrawal.

The Shin Bet learned in general terms about the conspiracy from a man who says he was "shocked somebody he knew was planning to assassinate the Prime Minister".

He was questioned after the assassination on 4 November but was released. The Shin Bet failed to identify the plotters from his description.

Amir first intended to shoot Rabin with a sniper's rifle outside his home in Tel Aviv. The conspirators traced the Prime Minister's movements and studied his security arrangements to get a clear shot, according to a report on Israeli television.

Yesterday, hundreds of Israelis gathered around the stone at the bottom of the back stairs of Tel Aviv's town hall, which marks the place where Rabin fell. There was to be a memorial rally last night attended by Leah Rabin, his widow.

The concrete paving stones in Malchei Yisrael Square, which is to be renamed Yitzhak Rabin Square, are slippery from the wax of thousands of memorial candles that people have left at the site of the assassination. Walls are covered with handwritten messages and pictures of Rabin and some tree trunks are draped in black. In the centre of the square yesterday, a man was shouting abuse at the right-wing Likud party for setting the stage for the assassination by its harsh rhetoric.

At the weekend, Moshe Shahal, the Police Minister, spelled out details of the organisation, which, he said, had planned two actions: "The first was the murder of the Prime Minister, the second was the organising by extremists of attacks on Palestinian targets after the implementation of Israeli redeployment."

Earlier, the Shin Bet had



Act of remembrance: The crowded scene in London's Albert Hall during a ceremony yesterday in honour of the late Israeli leader

Photograph: Philip Meech

said it had found no evidence of a conspiracy.

"What looked like an attack by an individual slowly appears as the organisation of several people and even an orderly organisation," said Dan Arbel, a magistrate investigating the assassination.

The discovery of a conspiracy among the religious right will

inflammate the political atmosphere, especially if extremist rabbis are found to have given their blessing to Rabin's murder. Police are protecting Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun. He had vowed to expose rabbis who believed Rabin should be killed for agreeing to hand the West Bank

back to the Palestinians. Jewish extremists threatened Rabbi Bin-Nun's life. The security forces were present in large numbers around Rabin's grave on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem yesterday as Mrs Rabin and her family came to pay their respects. This contrasts with their previous

laxity. One right-wing activist boasted to Israeli television last month of how he had stripped a hood ornament from Rabin's car when hundreds of protesters surrounded the vehicle outside the parliament. He said: "Just like we got the ornament, we can also get Rabin."

Reports that a telephone hot

line in New York has already raised \$100,000 for Amir's defence are fuelling demands in Israel that Jewish extremists from the US should not be allowed to emigrate to Israel. Yosi Sarid, the Environment Minister, said: "Just as there are international laws banning the transfer of dangerous waste

and garbage from one state to another, there must be a way of banning these people who endanger Israel."

All those under arrest for the murder of Mr Rabin were born in Israel but many of the more extreme activists in the West Bank settlements come from the US.

E Slavonia agrees to rejoin Croatia

Erdut, Croatia (Reuters) — Rebel Croatian Serbs in Eastern Slavonia agreed yesterday to rejoin Croatia, lifting the threat of fighting over the territory that could have wrecked peace hopes in the Balkans.

The UN mediator, Thorvald Stoltenberg, said after Serb leaders signed a peace draft at their Erdut headquarters: "I think we have experienced the start of the end of the war in ex-Yugoslavia."

Mr Stoltenberg and the US ambassador, Peter Galbraith, presented the Serbs with a draft worked out at the Balkan summit in the United States by President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

The mediators later returned to Zagreb for the agreement of Croatia's government to the terms ending a Serb rebellion that erupted into war when Croatia broke away from former Yugoslavia in 1991. The Croatian army recaptured two other rebel enclaves earlier this year and Mr Tudjman threatened to use force in Eastern Slavonia if the Serbs did not back down by

the end of November. Zagreb alarmed the UN last week by reinforcing its troops in the region, which borders Serb-dominated rump Yugoslavia and was regarded as a potential flash-point for a renewed war between Croats and Serbs.

The chief Serb negotiator, Milan Milanovic, said he agreed to a one-year period of transition to Croat rule with the option of a further year if needed.

A text of the agreement said the UN would administer the territory and provide peace-keepers during the transition. The area would be fully demilitarised within 30 days of UN peace-keepers and police being deployed. There was no mention of a Serb demand for a referendum at the end of the transition period to settle whether Eastern Slavonia should be Croat or Serb.

The mediators said that the agreement would preserve the multi-ethnic character of Eastern Slavonia, allowing the return of almost 100,000 Croat refugees driven out in 1991. It will also let Eastern Slavonia's Serbs remain.

Gingrich admits slim chance against Clinton

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, said yesterday the chances were "very, very slim" that he would run for the presidency next year and all but admitted that in an election against President Bill Clinton he would lose.

Mr Gingrich was speaking on NBC television's *Meet the Press* at a time of particularly sour relations between the Republican Congress and the White House. Because of Mr Clinton's refusal to sign a Republican spending bill, the indications are that much of the federal government will be shut down tomorrow, with more than 800,000 civil servants likely to be told not to report for work.

Political commentators have turned to the classic images of American macho mythology — "High Noon", "game of chicken", "who will blink first?" — to characterise the showdown between the President and Congress. While neither side will explicitly acknowledge it, what

is at stake is the popularity of each with the American public.

President Clinton is betting that if he toughs it out he will help to create the sort of public perceptions necessary for him to be re-elected next year. Mr Gingrich and his congressional cohorts are hoping they will be applauded for sticking to their guns, battling to reduce the federal budget, and that the President will receive the lion's share of the blame for the impending government shutdown.

It is the Republicans who appear to be taking the greater risk — a view Mr Gingrich seems to share. In the NBC interview, he said Mr Clinton would beat him in a "personality contest". If an election race between him and the President were to be "about personalities, he'd win", Mr Gingrich said. "He's remarkably good at pleasing people."

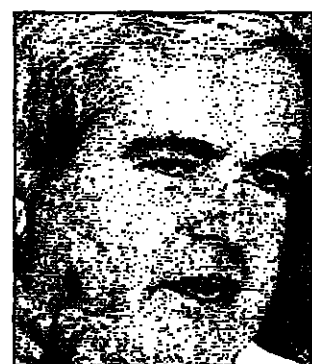
The Speaker was responding to the results of the latest polls. These show he is lagging far behind Mr Clinton in popularity (28 per cent to 62 per cent); that Mr Clinton's approval ratings generally, at 52 per cent, are higher than at any point in 18

months, and higher than those of the Republican Congress or any of the Republican presidential candidates, including the front-runner, Bob Dole, the majority leader in the Senate.

The notion is taking hold in the White House that the Republican bubble has burst. The failure of the Republicans to sustain their winning momentum in state and mayoral elections held countrywide last week is being widely interpreted as symptomatic of a growing public unease about Mr Gingrich's zeal to balance the budget by making deep cuts in welfare spending.

Hardliners in the congressional Republican caucus have insisted that the spending bill Mr Clinton would have to sign today to keep the government functioning should include budget-cutting commitments which the Democrats reject.

Mr Clinton believes he is being blackmailed. "I will not allow them to impose new, immediate cuts in Medicare [federal health care for the



High noon: Newt's budget clash reaches crisis point

elderly], education and the environment as a condition of keeping the government open," he said in his weekly radio address on Saturday.

Mr Clinton spoke on the phone to both Mr Gingrich and Mr Dole on Saturday. Mr Gingrich complained that the President had "basically hung up on us".

Mr Dole complained that the President had in effect told him to "get lost". But Mr Clinton was not complaining. For the first time in a long while the Republicans are feeling more uncomfortable than he is. Reflecting the President's newly confident mood, White House officials said yesterday that he was unlikely to heed a call from Mr Gingrich to respond to the looming domestic crisis by cancelling a scheduled trip to Japan this weekend.

Chinese set to name their tame lama

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Tibetans will be faced with two alternative Panchen Lamas after the Chinese government last night opted for direct public conflict with the Dalai Lama over the choice of the second holiest figure in Tibetan Buddhism. "The Chinese are irrevocably set on confrontation," said Robbie Barnett at the London-based Tibet Information Network.

In long dispatches from the official Xinhua news agency, the government said that a shortlist of three boys had been agreed at a meeting of more than 70

lamas which ended in Peking at the weekend. The final determination will be made at a religious ceremony in Lhasa during which a name will be drawn from a golden urn to identify the reincarnated Panchen Lama, said Xinhua. The name would be forwarded to the central government for approval. President Jiang Zemin has urged that the child be chosen "at an early date".

The list of three candidates, who have not yet been identified by the Chinese, does not include six-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, named in May by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation.

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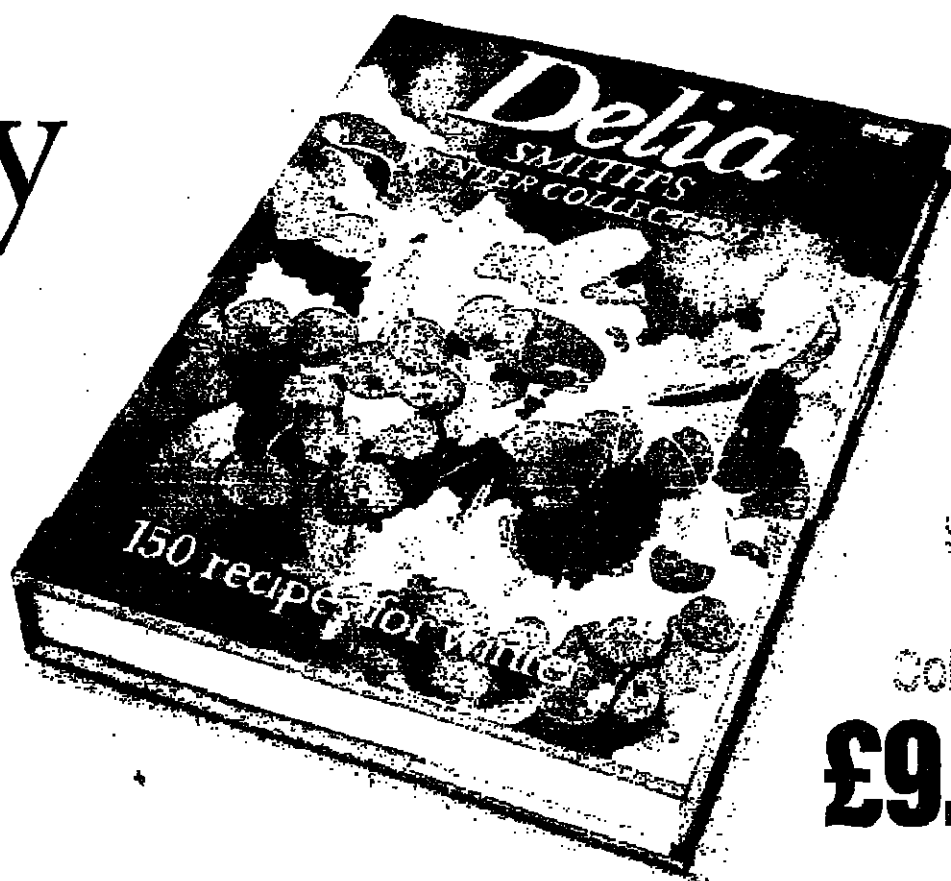
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NIGERIA IN THE DOCK

'They decided on diplomacy. It failed.

Commonwealth to enforce rights code

STEVE CRAWSHAW
Auckland

The Commonwealth yesterday agreed to measures which create a framework for the expulsion of member states and for economic sanctions if they fail to meet basic democratic norms. Agreement of some kind of human rights package was on the summit agenda even before the execution of the Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, on Friday. But officials admitted that his death had "galvanised" leaders, as a deadly reminder of the need to act.

The programme agreed at the resort of Millbrook is intended to give teeth to the Harare declaration of 1991, which emphasised the importance of human rights and democracy. The programme seeks to provide an early-warning system for political emergencies. A series of responses range from the gentle rap over the knuckles ("collective disapproval") and "bilateral demarches by member countries", through exclusion from high-level Commonwealth meetings, to suspension, sanctions and expulsion. Eight foreign ministers will head a special group to assess infringements and recommend what action to take.

On Saturday, Commonwealth leaders responded to the hanging of Saro-Wiwa and eight others by suspending Nigeria's membership. It is still unclear whether this will make Nigeria more malleable, or whether it will simply decide to walk out

of the Commonwealth entirely. Nigeria has traditionally been one of the most important members of the organisation; the secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, is a former Nigerian foreign minister.

Nigeria can be expelled in due course if more than 40 prisoners - including the apparent winner of the 1993 elections, Chief Moshood Abiola - are not released from jail.

Chief Anyaoku yesterday welcomed the actions taken by the Commonwealth against his country. "What happened this weekend was bound to happen," he said, "because the credibility of the Commonwealth was put in question. The heads of government could not but do what they have done."

Jim Bolger, who as New Zealand prime minister is the host and chairman of the Commonwealth summit, said yesterday's agreement contained "far-reaching decisions" and "takes the Commonwealth into a new era".

The Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme defines the responses when a country is "clearly in violation" of the Harare declaration, and "particularly in the event of an unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government". The listed responses are intended to "encourage the restoration of democracy within a reasonable time frame".

The measures combine soft-ly measures with the threatened big stick of expulsion, sanctions or visa bans.

Thus, "appropriate technical assistance" can be offered, "to facilitate an early restoration of democracy". There is the possibility, too, of creating an Eminent Persons' Group - such as was sent to South Africa in the last years of apartheid - where "such a mission would be beneficial in reinforcing the Commonwealth's good offices role".

The retreat was restricted to Commonwealth leaders and one close adviser in order to emphasise the intimacy of the event. Participants said yesterday there had been surprisingly little disagreement on the main points - not least, perhaps, because there was so little time for the agreement to be rushed through. Officials had been working on a version of the programme for some time. But the Saro-Wiwa execution gave added urgency, and meant that much was changed.

The question of sanctions was, in Mr Bolger's words, "not seriously debated" at the retreat. According to one participant, this was because the potential importance of sanctions was "taken for granted - you have to understand, we had very little time". Sceptics argued that Commonwealth leaders had shied away from discussing the details of a measure that would inevitably prove painful and controversial.

Critics suggested that the Commonwealth leaders had taken fright at the prospect of introducing sanctions, even after Nigeria's deadly show of defiance. But defenders of the

JUSTICE
FOR
THE
OGONI

Emotional protest: A Nigerian protesting in London at the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa yesterday

Photograph: AFP

It took five tries to hang Saro-Wiwa

FRANK AIGBOGUN
Associated Press

Lagos — It took five attempts to hang Ken Saro-Wiwa before the Nigerian writer spoke his last words and his body went limp. "Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues," were the anti-government activist's final words before he died on Friday morning, blindfolded and dangling from a rope.

Several Lagos newspapers reported yesterday that Saro-Wiwa was the first of the nine condemned Ogoni activists to be hanged in Port Harcourt.

According to the Lagos daily AM News, the hangmen made four attempts before finally killing Saro-Wiwa on the fifth one. At one point Saro-Wiwa asked: "Why are you people treating me like this? Which type of country is this?"

Saro-Wiwa, 54, was convicted on 31 October by a tribunal in the southern port city of ordering the murders of four political rivals who were shot at a 1994 political rally. He insisted he was framed because of his opposition to Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, and the oil industry, which accounts for about 80 per cent of the country's foreign income. Saro-Wiwa had campaigned on behalf of the 500,000 Ogoni people who live in the oil-rich southern states and claimed their land was being destroyed by pollution.

The military ruling council upheld the sentences on Wednesday, provoking an international outcry, and Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth on Saturday. The 52-member Commonwealth said yesterday that

Nigeria has two years to end its military dictatorship and restore democracy or face expulsion.

The government-backed News Agency of Nigeria said the suspension amounted to unfair meddling. "Suspending Nigeria is not appropriate," said Hawulu Yadudu, special adviser to General Abacha on legal matters. "It has been carried out without due regard for the role of non-interference in the internal affairs of member countries."

According to Mr Yadudu, Saro-Wiwa and the other executed men had identified 14 Ogoni leaders for elimination, including the four men who were killed.

Several newspapers reported that only hours after the government upheld the death sentences, nine coffins were moved

to the Port Harcourt prison. The junta apparently wanted the executions to take place immediately but later found that Port Harcourt, which had held no executions since Nigeria's independence from Britain in 1960, did not have the equipment for hangings.

On Thursday, executioners were flown in from the northern Muslim city of Sokoto. They took rooms in a hotel and awaited their task.

About 5am on Friday, Saro-Wiwa and his eight companions were roused from their cells at the army camp where they had been held since their convictions. They were told they were being taken to the Port Harcourt prison, on the purported grounds there was reason to suspect the army camp might be attacked by Ogoni youths.

Once inside the prison, the nine men were herded into one room and shackles were placed on their wrists and ankles. They were then led out, one after the other, beginning with Saro-Wiwa. After the executions, the bodies were taken under armed guard to the public cemetery around 3.15pm. Relatives have not been allowed to visit the graves.

Two Nigerian men claiming to be sons of two of the murdered Ogonis — Kenneth Kobani, a London-based lawyer, and Desmond Orage, an insurance agent in Los Angeles — said yesterday that Saro-Wiwa was guilty. "I do accept that Nigeria has some flaws," Mr Kobani said. "However, even an unpopular government can sometimes be right. I believe the verdict of guilt is a justified one."

some time with the Nigerians, and clearly it hasn't proved sufficient.

The Millbrook programme contained not just the package of measures connected with democracy and human rights, but also measures for promoting sustainable development.

Welcome to 53rd member of the club

Auckland — Mozambique will be "warmly welcomed" today in the words of the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, announcing the news yesterday — as the 53rd member of the Commonwealth, writes Steve Crawshaw.

The arrival of Mozambique serves as a reminder that, for some at least, the Commonwealth is far from dead. At the beginning of the conference, Cameroon received its official welcome after being admitted earlier this month. South Africa asked to rejoin the Commonwealth within two weeks of Nelson Mandela's inauguration as President last year.

South Africa and, to a lesser extent, Cameroon are obvious candidates for Commonwealth membership. South Africa had been a member before — until the apartheid state left the Commonwealth, unloved and unwanted, three decades ago.

Although Cameroon was French-ruled, part of the country was under British after the First World War. In addition, part of what used to be Cameroon is now Nigeria. Thus, Cameroon also has a British connection. Admittedly, President Paul Biya of Cameroon is said to have had conducted part of his inaugural conversation with the Queen — whom he now recognises as head of the Commonwealth — in French, in which he is more fluent than in English.

Mozambique was Portuguese-ruled, and thus does not fulfil any of the usual criteria that are mentioned by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, when describing the "special qualities" of the Commonwealth. Mozambique does not use English as an official language of communication, nor does it have the partly compatible legal and administrative structures that were a legacy of British rule. Nor, as far as anybody knows, does the Queen speak Portuguese.

In Mozambique's case, however, membership seems to be a recognition of its close relationship with other former "frontline states" in southern Africa — most notably, Zimbabwe. It has a good relationship, too, with the new South Africa, which, in apartheid times, used to be the chief destabiliser in the region.

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MR. BIG STILL AT LARGE SAYS YARD

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'CRESTFALLEN'
AS ALMERA
HEIST LORD IS
EXPOSED

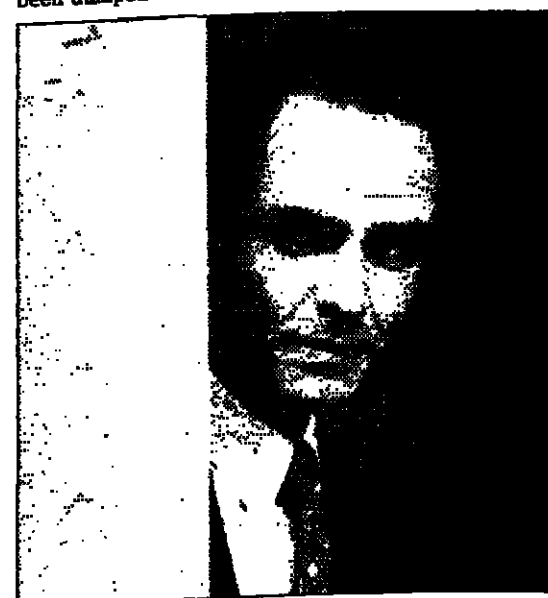
The family of Lord Wordingham, heir to a £3 billion fortune, were said to be 'crestfallen' yesterday after the Lord was arrested for his involvement in the recent spate of Almera disappearances that have been sweeping the country.

Police believe that the Lord is just one of the wealthy aristocrats recruited by the mastermind behind the operation, the notorious Mr Big. 'He was basically just a lackey' a spokesman told reporters. 'Mr Big has friends in very high places over whom he exerts an inordinate amount of influence'.



Frogmen to dredge lake for missing Almeras

Police frogmen are preparing to dredge the lake on the Lord's country estate in case any of the missing Almeras have been dumped there. Over



Disgraced Lord Wordingham yesterday

6,000 are still missing, including those which disappeared in the multi-million pound heist in the Bay of Biscay.

The Lord, a keen racing driver, lived his jet set lifestyle to the full. Only last week he was snapped in the Riviera surrounded by some of Europe's wealthiest beauties. Although he mixes in fashionable circles there is no evidence to suggest that he has any Royal connections.

Just why the Lord was willing to risk so much is unclear. Although there is speculation that he and the other Almera abductees resented the fact that ordinary people could afford a car as luxurious, comfortable and technologically advanced as the Almera. The Almera's highly innovative Multilink Beam Suspension, for example, makes it drive like a performance car.

Nissan have stressed that new Almeras are still readily available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.

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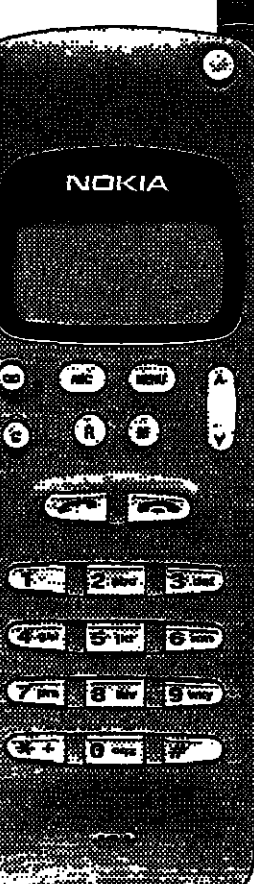
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NIGERIA IN THE DOCK

Father and the others are now dead'

Mandela under fire for failing to act

ROBERT BLOCK
Johannesburg

In the rush to apportion blame for the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow political activists in Nigeria on Friday, accusing fingers have been pointed at President Nelson Mandela.

Rage is being focused on the South African President on account of his initial softly-softly approach towards Nigeria's military rulers and the growing perception that he had blocked tougher international action to isolate the country. Some Nigerians were bitter about their feelings of betrayal by a man viewed as the embodiment of Africa's moral conscience.

Mr Mandela "had the opportunity to save the lives of the nine human-rights activists but he opted to fold his arms while they were being slain", said Imme Edigheji, a friend of Saro-Wiwa's and a representative of the Democratic Alternative, a pro-democracy group based in Lagos.

He blamed Mr Mandela for failing to heed the Nigerian opposition's appeals for decisive action against the government of General Sani Abacha. "We hope Mandela now sees the Nigerian military regime does not appreciate his language," Mr Edigheji said. Nigeria was widely regarded as the first crucial foreign policy test for the new South Africa and Mr Mandela's first chance to assert himself as the continent's most respected statesman.

South Africa did lead attempts by African states to



Wave of criticism: Nelson Mandela with Daniel arap Moi of Kenya at the Commonwealth summit

Photograph: Nigel Marple/Reuters

persuade Nigeria's military government to quicken moves towards democracy. But, in doing so, Mr Mandela rejected calls to isolate the country. Instead, he opted for a policy that could be compared to the "constructive engagement" of previous US governments with the apartheid regime.

Aziz Pahad, the Deputy Foreign Minister, told the weekly *Mail and Guardian* before the hangings that South Africa believed the policy was working. He said South Africa had to tread carefully because Nigeria's

leaders thought Pretoria was being used as a tool of London and Washington.

It appears the case was the opposite. The US and Britain may have been looking to Mr Mandela to provide a lead in how to deal with Nigeria.

In an interview published in South Africa yesterday, Doyin Abiola, wife of Moshood Abiola, the imprisoned winner of the annulled 1993 Nigerian elections, said that during meetings with US and British officials in September it was clear they were waiting to take their cue

from President Mandela.

This impression was echoed by Nigeria's Nobel prize-winning writer, Wole Soyinka, who said that because of Mr Mandela's moral gravitas, neither Washington nor London would have dared go against him over Nigeria. Mr Soyinka added his voice to the list of critics of South Africa's Nigerian policy three weeks ago in a series of widely published interviews attacking the position of Mr Mandela and his African National Congress.

"They are not criticising

Nigeria publicly for the very ironic reason that they feel they owe Nigeria a debt for its stand against apartheid," Mr Soyinka said. "But how can they be so naive as to not recognise the fact that their debt of gratitude is to the people and not the government which is oppressing those very people."

In South Africa, most of the anger has been directed against Nigeria for having made Mr Mandela look bad. Archbishop Desmond Tutu accused the Nigerians of humiliating Mr Mandela. But the idea that Mr

Mandela may share some responsibility is beginning to surface locally as well.

In a leading article, Johannesburg's *Sunday Independent* said: "It has to be said that we have given the wrong lead. Shuttle diplomacy, hindsight now shouts out, merely bought time for Abacha and allowed his hangers-on to tie their nooses well."

It added: "We have been taught a hard lesson in continental diplomacy, and now have to put that new knowledge to direct use."

Shell defies calls to pull out oil operations

NICHOLAS SCHOON
and OLIVER TICKELL

Shell said last night it had no intention of pulling out of Nigeria, despite threats of an intensified international protest campaign against the oil company and widespread calls for oil sanctions against the country's military regime.

The company said it would go ahead with a huge gas investment project in Nigeria, even though the World Bank said, after it learnt of the executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight Ogoni co-defendants, that it would withdraw its backing for the £2.7bn scheme.

But John Major said yesterday that the British government would discuss the planned investment with Shell urgently. "Quite where they are with their plans, what obligations they have entered into and what the impact of any action would be is not something I yet know," the Prime Minister added.

A Shell International spokesman said: "We have a major commitment to the people of Nigeria and the Niger delta. Our withdrawal would hit the Nigerian people hardest and put our own staff there in a dangerous position."

With 14 per cent of Shell's global oil production coming from Nigeria's oilfields, the world's biggest oil corporation could ill afford to quit. In partnership with the Nigerian government and French and Italian oil companies, it produces about half of Nigeria's oil. Shell would own one quarter of the proposed liquefied natural gas plant to be built near Ogoniland, and says it would bring thousands of jobs to the impoverished delta lands.

The World Bank's International Finance Corporation announced on Friday that it would not be taking a 2 per cent stake or providing a \$100m (£64m) loan for the project.

Environmentalists, human rights groups and the London-based Ogoni Community Association are to meet today to decide how to take their campaign against Shell and the Nigerian government forward. They accuse the oil giant of causing environmental destruction in the Ogoni area through oil spills and the flaring of natural gas while colluding with a repressive regime.

The main groups involved are Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Amnesty International and the Body Shop. They are united in the belief that there should be international oil sanctions against Nigeria.

Lazarus Lamana, the association president, said that "individuals, having heard our story and seeing the reality of the situation, should use their own individual purchasing power to protest."

Lord Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace UK, said there would be organised protests against Shell in Britain and many other countries.

Over the weekend five Shell petrol stations in England and Wales were closed by demonstrations organised by the group Earth First! It said it was planning more protests.

Shell said the allegations of environmental devastation were "false and misleading". The company had appealed to the Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, for clemency for Saro-Wiwa and his co-defendants, and as a private company could not get involved in Nigerian internal affairs.

IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan troops 'capture Tiger base'

Colombo — Sri Lankan soldiers attacking the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna captured an underground base, security sources said yesterday. Tamil Tiger guerrillas, fighting a rearguard action to defend Jaffna town, lost 70 fighters on Saturday, raising their death toll to more than 250 since the army resumed its push on Friday, military sources said. In Colombo, more roadblocks went up and hundreds were questioned over attacks on Saturday by suicide bombers in which 15 people died. *Reuters*

Kentucky Fried Chicken shuts Delhi store

New Delhi — The US fast-food giant Kentucky Fried Chicken, facing action from a Hindu nationalist municipal government, shut its Delhi store yesterday after officials cancelled its licence on health grounds. The company blames the Hindu BJP party's campaign against foreign firms. *Reuters*

Loach film wins top award

Berlin — *Land and Freedom*, the British director Ken Loach's film about the Spanish Civil War, was named yesterday as the Film of the Year by the European Film Academy. *AP*

Van den Broek off Nato list

Amsterdam — The European commissioner Hans van den Broek will not be put forward by the Netherlands as a candidate for the post of Nato Secretary-General, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "With the important EU intergovernmental conference coming up next year, we don't want to lose one of our most experienced representatives at an influential post," he said. *Reuters*

Azeris go to polls for first time

Baku — Azerbaijan held its first parliamentary election since it won independence in 1991 and also voted on a constitution expected to increase President Heydar Aliyev's already sweeping powers. *Reuters*

East Timor calm on anniversary of killings

Jakarta — East Timor's capital, Dili, was quiet, despite reports of widespread harassment as security was tightened during the anniversary of the 1991 killing of separatist protesters by Indonesian troops. *Reuters*

EU suspends aid deals

Brussels (Reuters) — The European Commission said yesterday it will suspend development co-operation with Nigeria and recall its head of delegation in protest at the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority rights activists.

The Commission, the European Union's executive body, also said it will propose tightening restrictive measures already imposed on Nigeria's military regime.

Its decision to recall its head of delegation, which represents the European Union as an organisation, follows a move by

the Union's 15 individual member states on Saturday to pull their ambassadors out of Nigeria.

A Commission spokeswoman said that in a five-year programme ending this year, Nigeria was set to receive 365m euros (£305m) in development aid via the Lomé Convention, an aid and trade agreement between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

There was also a 173m euros programme for aid and loans via the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank.

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Europe ducks the tough questions

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Mounting confusion on how Europe should plan its future, and doubts about giving more power to Brussels, will be highlighted this week in the report of a high-level study group charged with setting the agenda for reform.

Britain will take comfort from the group's report, which offers little provocation to Conservative Euro-sceptics, making no firm proposals which would immediately threaten the

British veto or reduce the powers of national parliaments. While exploring ideas for radical change, the report acknowledges the reservations of Britain, as well as other countries, and makes no attempt to recommend the way forward.

While John Major heaves a sigh of relief, however, the report will come as a major disappointment to those who hoped it would trigger serious debate at last about fundamental reform. "It is tortuous and confused. It ducks all the major issues and takes us no

further forward," said a senior official who scrutinised the final draft at the weekend. The so-called "reflection group" of EU ministers, established to shape an agenda for next year's inter-governmental conference, started its work at Messina in June with ambitious plans to build a more workable and effective form of European government. The group was charged with preparing outline plans for the enlargement of the union from 15 to up to 30 member states. The group's report, to be presented formally

tomorrow, was to have provided crucial guidance for heads of state, who are due to finalise plans for the IGC when they meet in Madrid in December. Instead, the report may simply fuel confusion.

After nine meetings, involving 40 hours of discussion, the group appears to have been overwhelmed by the sheer complexity of its task, and cowed by the wave of scepticism about European integration which has spread beyond Britain to several other member states in recent months. The Franco-

German alliance, which traditionally drives forward Europe's reforming engine, has been markedly silent in recent months. Jacques Chirac, the French President, has failed to take any bold lead on Europe's future. In Germany doubts have mounted steadily over whether the mark should be replaced by a weaker European single currency, and Bonn no longer seems to be insisting so forcefully that monetary union must go hand in hand with radical new steps towards political union. And the European

Commission has abandoned the zeal for which it became famous under Jacques Delors, playing a cautious role under Jacques Santer.

The report, drawn up by Carlos Westendorp, the group's Spanish chairman, makes little attempt to open new vision. It ducks decisions on all the major reform questions. The key question of how to extend qualified majority voting in order to speed up decision-making is addressed, and a number of options set out. However, no conclusions are reached and

Britain's objection to any extension of majority voting is carefully acknowledged. Throughout meetings, David Davis, the Foreign Office minister representing Britain, has insisted that the report should not prejudice next year's negotiations, and he seems to have achieved his aim.

The report hedges its bets on how to improve the EU's decision-making in foreign and defence policy, where failures of EU policy in former Yugoslavia are being highlighted today by the apparent progress of the



Jacques Delors: He has been abandoned

new US initiative. The fact that the EU should be a heavyweight to represent foreign policy questions to present a more coherent front, is addressed.

Chaos as Algeria votes in France

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

There was chaos over the weekend as thousands of Algerians living in France turned out to vote in their country's presidential election. The election, which takes place in Algeria on Thursday, offers a choice of candidates – four – for the first time since Algeria became independent in 1962, but because of an opposition boycott, the turnout is regarded as crucial.

Seven parties and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have refused to take part, seeing the vote as an attempt by the military-backed regime to gain legitimacy following the cancelled parliamentary elections of 1991. In France, however, where there are more than 630,000 Algerian voters – many are dual nationals – participation appeared to be high.

In central Paris, queues started to form outside the consulate-general, in a side street close to the Arc de Triomphe, at 9.30. There was the extraordinary sight of the vast security precautions following recent bomb attacks for which

de la Grande Armée, completely empty of people and traffic in preparation for the Armistice Day ceremonies, and to one side, a dense and noisy crush of would-be Algerian voters, waiting impatiently under the watchful eye of the riot police.

These scenes were repeated at many of the 22 other voting centres across France. In Marseille and Lyons, dozens of people were injured or fainting in the crush. In Nice, order broke down and voting was suspended for three hours while security was reinforced. In Lille, consular officials and the Red Cross distributed mineral water.

Most voters were middle-aged and elderly men, but there was a smattering of younger people, some of whom went away in disgust at the poor organisation. The average waiting time in Paris was five hours.

It had originally been planned to spread the voting in France across six days, but two weeks ago the French authorities summarily reduced the number of days to three, citing security precautions following recent bomb attacks for which

the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility. The next, and last, day for voting in France is Thursday.

Since the fracas last month over President Jacques Chirac's cancelled meeting with President Liamine Zoual of Algeria at the UN, France has taken a detached approach to the election. All campaigning in France was banned, and publicity was limited to emigre newspapers, radio stations and Algerian satellite television.

Algeria's consul-general in Paris, Zouir Messani, said his first thought on seeing so many people was "joy that so many people wanted to vote, but how are we going to cope?"

He said that there had been "eight months of work", but no organised mobilisation in the form of transport to polling stations.

He thought that many Algerians had decided to vote not only to exercise their right for the first time, but to show French people, shocked by the bombs, that Algerians were "law-abiding people who respected the democratic process".



Count up: Atlantis lifting off from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida, with the clock showing the space shuttle is seconds into its flight. The crew hopes to dock with the Russian Mir space station. Photograph: Mike Tussing/Re

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General ready to put fear of God into Guatemala

PHIL DAVISON
Guatemala City

Few lands have been ruled by as many generals as Guatemala. But when Guatemalans talk of "el General", everybody knows it is Efraim Rios Montt.

Only a dozen years after the general-cum-born-again-evangelist presided over the burning of hundreds of highland villages and the massacre of thousands of Indian peasants, he is billing himself as the turbulent Central American nation's saviour.

Guatemala's constitution barred the 69-year-old general from running for president in yesterday's elections. But the man who seized power from another general in 1982 was never one to let a little inconvenience like the constitution get in his way. So he ran yesterday in a kind of virtual reality, as a ghost candidate for his Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) behind a hand-picked front-man, a lawyer called Alfonso Portillo. In case anyone was in doubt, the general addressed most campaign rallies; the party's slogan was "Portillo for President, Rios Montt for power".

Mr Portillo looked likely to finish a distant second in the first round of voting behind Alvaro Arzu of the National Advancement Party (PAN). But Mr Arzu did not look like receiving the necessary 50 per cent of the vote to avoid a two-man runoff on 7 January. With the

other 17 candidates eliminated and campaigning redirected, the general's party is seen as having a chance in the run-off.

For those who lived to tell the tale of his reign of terror, it is a frightening thought. "Why are people like this running free when they were the ones who killed and persecuted us?" a local church worker asked. He said seven members of his



Rios Montt: Seeking power by proxy

family were killed in a nearby 1982 massacre after the general seized power.

At the time, General Rios Montt's image was a cross between Billy Graham and Attila the Hun. He had been trained in the US in counter-insurgency techniques, military intelligence, interrogation and psychological warfare, knowledge he put to good use.

Not even Pope John Paul was able to sway him. During a 1983 visit here, the Pope appealed for clemency for five prisoners

sentenced to death for common crimes. The general's response was to put the men in front of a firing squad before the Pope left. While winning President Ronald Reagan's support by casing military-linked "death squad" murders in the capital, General Rios Montt stepped up his predecessor's "scorched earth" policy in the jungle highlands. Human rights workers estimate 440 villages were burned down, up to 75,000 Mayan Indians were "disappeared" and 150,000 fled to Mexico during his 17-month reign.

All in the name of God. Blaming a Marxist guerrilla insurrection, the general said he was on a crusade against atheism and communism. It was his evangelical fanaticism in a mostly Catholic country, rather than his brutality, that led his own Defence Minister, General Oscar Mejia Victores, to overthrow him in August 1983.

When he tried to register as a presidential candidate this year, he was rejected under a constitutional article barring past coup leaders. A judge ordered him jailed for violating the constitution but he was allowed to remain free on bail. He then nominated his wife, Teresa, but she, too, was rejected. That was when Mr Portillo surfaced. He sprinkled his campaign speeches with biblical imagery, telling Indian peasants that divorce, adultery and a lack of fear of God were at the root of the country's problems.

Boy survives amid killer avalanches

Kathmandu (Reuters) – teenage Nepali boy given up dead in an avalanche survived for 24 hours and was pulled from deep snow yesterday, except for frostbite, Nepali officials said.

Forty-three people were killed in weekend avalanches and landslides in the Himalayas, including 17 foreign 13 Japanese, an Irish and two Canadians and a German. Rescuers yesterday held 115 foreign trekkers from a key near Mount Everest. "Of the rescued were in short deep snow," said Bikash Rana, a Nepal Airways pilot. "Most are suffering from snow blindness, frostbite and hunger."

The avalanche in which 13 Japanese died on Saturday is also believed to have killed Nepalis. But Deepak Nepal managed to survive by perched between two rocks in snow (1.3m) deep, rescue officials said.

The Japanese and their 5 guides and porters buried in the snow as they were in a camp at Pangka, about miles north-east of Kathmandu at around 1am on Saturday. They were trekking their way to the Gokyo Valley, the popular hiking area 12 miles south of Everest.

Another 17 people killed when landslides caused continuous rain crushed houses and trekkers' lodges in the Lang and Panchthar districts.

Republican with a king-size grudge

To the baby-boom generation, Gough Whitlam was an Australian hero. When he led the Labor Party to power in 1972, many saw it as the dawn of a new era. After 23 years of steady but stuffy government by the conservative Liberal-National coalition, Mr Whitlam promised to take Australia into the 20th century on a rollercoaster ride of political reforms.

Divorce and immigration laws were liberalised, military conscription was abolished, money was poured into film, dance, opera and other cultural activities, university fees were abolished, British (or "imperial") honours were replaced by Australian orders and archaic constitutional links with Britain were severed.

While Mr Whitlam carved out a new independent stance for Australia on the international scene, his ministers became embroiled in scandals.

Missing Persons
No 41: Gough Whitlam



The worst was the "loans crisis", a naive bid to borrow billions of Arab "petro-dollars" to develop Australia's vast natural resources. The episode unnerved the business community and provided the trigger for the opposition, led by Malcolm Fraser, to push Mr Whitlam from power by using their majority in the Senate to deny the government its money supply.

The drama came to a climax on 11 November 1975 when Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, used his "reserve" powers to sack Mr Whitlam and install Mr Fraser as caretaker prime minister pending elections, which Mr Fraser won.

Although the rest of the world has forgotten about Mr Whitlam, his influence in Australia remains considerable. He continues to travel and give speeches. He was on television the other night, at 70 as acerbic as ever, offering his own version of the 1975 trauma. Mr Whitlam has never forgiven Sir John for failing to warn the Prime Minister that dismissal was likely unless the political deadlock was broken.

Sir John's friends say if he had done that Mr Whitlam would

have gone to the Queen to sack Sir John, who had dragged the Crown into the crisis. Mr Whitlam still describes the affair as a "coup".

Mr Whitlam, Mr Fraser Australian democracy survived the 1975 crisis. Sir John did. For years afterwards he bowed and beckoned everyone went. In 1977 he stepped down and spent years in Britain before his death in 1991. Much as the crisis 20 years ago bitterly divided Australia, it also forced them to question whether their constitution, the British monarch and vicereity at its centre, were overhauling today where process is leading. He says "When we of the Labor Party commemorate the dismissal we celebrate the coming of a new Australian republic."

Robert Millik

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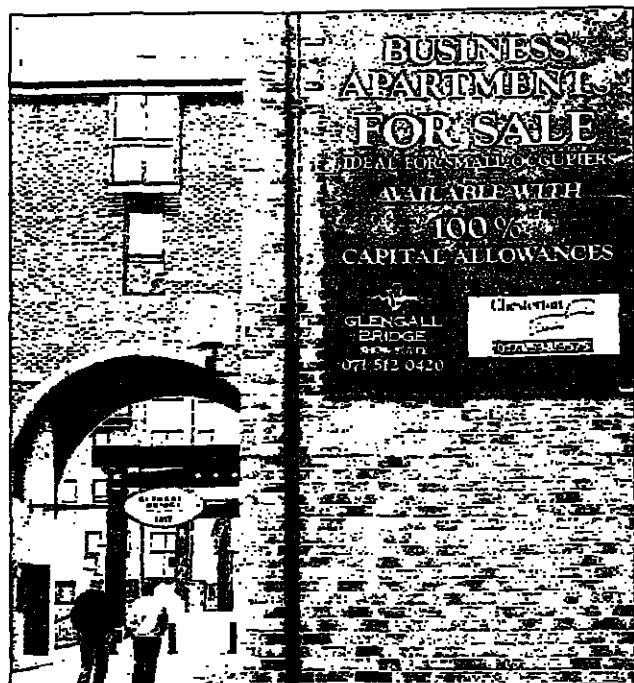


ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

A SPECIAL REPORT THE SMALL OFFICE

The rapid rise of the SoHo market

Steve Homer introduces this four-page special report on the small office/home office



Small businesses: a growing market. Photograph: Kelpesh Lathiga

Accurate figures for the SoHo (small office/home office) market are hard to come by. According to a survey carried out for electronics manufacturer Sharp last year, the SoHo sector is made up of 2.5 million small businesses, home businesses and home workers. The survey, conducted by NOP, found that 1.5 million small businesses (One-20 employees), 750,000 home businesses and 250,000 individuals were working at home on behalf of their employer. Sharp believes these figures are rather conservative and many estimates put them as much higher.

What is not questioned is that the two fastest growing sectors of the PC market at the moment are the home market and the small business market. IDC says that the UK small office sector (that is under 10 employees) will grow at 10.3 per cent annually between 1994

and 1999 while the remainder of the market will grow at only 6.3 per cent.

But amazingly, small businesses are still reluctant to embrace the most important enabling technologies of the late 20th century - the computer, the computer network and electronic communications. According to research by computer company Compaq, one in five companies still have no PCs and while most of these tend to be smaller firms, nearly one in five of the firms without PCs employ between 10 and 50 people. Even with the vastly reduced cost of a PC capable of word processing, electronic mail and all of the many basic activities of the companies employing over 10 people who responded to the survey, 11 per cent still only had one PC!

Given all the hype about the internet and electronic mail,

Compaq reports less than one in 10 small businesses use their PCs for electronic communications. And given the huge advantages that networking brings it is equally surprising that more than half of the businesses with more than one PC are not networked.

But what makes these low figures such depressing reading is that modern technology is such an unexpected enabler. Businesses are missing out on opportunities to be more effective and efficient. The survey bears this out. Almost all respondents reported wider than expected use of their PCs following purchase.

But the SoHo market is about much more than just computers. There are the printers, faxes, phones, copiers and so on. Slowly, very slowly in fact, manufacturers have become aware of this sector and its special needs. One of the key

factors of the SoHo market is that most small and home offices have very limited space. But, amazingly, few companies seem to have realised this. For example, it is only in the last year or so that printers really suited to the SoHo sector have appeared. We are still waiting for sensible computers and monitors which are designed with more thought for optimum desk space usage.

But the pressure to push the SoHo market forward continues. More and more companies are expecting people to work from home at least some of the time. More and more businesses are starting up and all of these start off as small concerns. And the disadvantages of having a separate small office are decreasing.

Sophisticated electronic communications like Lotus Notes and other forms of closely defined electronic infor-

mation interchange mean companies can quickly synchronise their efforts to an appreciably deep level. And the improvements in mobile and fixed communications mean more opportunities for the flexible small business.

What is more, new companies are spotting the importance of the SoHo sector and are pitching products and services at it. For example, Energis, the telecom operator, recently launched a range of services specifically aimed at the home office.

But with all this whizz-bang technology and a buoyant economic sector there are still problems. The obvious ones are to do with isolation and trying to make a business work in a setting which is less than ideal. Many small businesses start off with not only the wrong computer but the wrong desk and especially the wrong chairs!

But users still need to become more mature in their outlook. One of the surprising features in the Compaq survey was the way different factors were given importance. When asked what were the most important considerations in selecting a PC, value for money was unsurprisingly tops, then came quality and reliability, then ease of use, then capabilities, then price and, only sixth, service and support. This fits in the face of experience. For any business that uses computers, they rapidly become an indispensable tool. But computers are machines built by and used by humans, so they inevitably go wrong.

The SoHo market is growing up fast. But it is not just suppliers who need to take a more professional approach. SoHo owners need to be more professional in their purchasing decisions as well.

It's good to talk before you buy a phone

STEVE HOMER

With the sophistication of today's telephone system, there really is no excuse for you not to have efficient telephone communications no matter how small your company is.

To start at the very bottom of the pile, the telephone itself. You are now faced with a bewildering choice of telephones. Just a few years ago BT was the sole supplier of telephone equipment, but now you can buy the whole array from hundreds of suppliers and dozens of outlets. And, of course, there is the mobile phone or, particularly useful in a home office, the cordless phone.

It pays to shop around for your actual telephone, not so much to save yourself a little money, after all most phones will last you several years and cost nothing compared to the actual phone bills. No, it is good to look around because the incredible mix of features means that you are likely to find one that suits you down to the ground. A popular favourite is a hands-free phone with a good number of instant dial memories.

As well as the piece of equipment on the desk you also need a phone line or lines. These days you can choose between the cable TV companies and BT. In most cases the cable companies will be marginally cheaper but check carefully. Where BT is nearly always more expensive is on installation of new lines, but with a bit of pushing it can sometimes find ways of installing a phone on an existing line where charges are comparable or cheaper than the cable companies. Importantly, BT also offers some impressive discounts for high volume users and may offer services that the cable companies cannot match.

However, be warned, while BT is now quite efficient at repairing damaged lines, it is simply appalling at giving advice to small businesses. This gets even worse if you plan to use a residential line for business. Residential lines are cheaper and the level of service is good enough for most small businesses. The only concrete benefit of a business line is an entry in the Yellow Pages directory. But this can be a major advantage for some types of business and should not be lightly dismissed. However, even though, according to BT, two-thirds of all home-based businesses use residential lines, BT still fails to offer sensible advice to people trying to set up the appropriate discounts and options on a residential line.

And there are now dozens of options. The basic services offered on nearly all exchanges mean that you can provide a secure presence even when you are not there. Both BT and most of the cable companies offer services like "call-waiting" and "call-divert". These mean that a single person is capable of answering more than one call. With call-waiting the caller hears an announcement and the person being called hears a little "bip" in their telephone and can switch between calls.

Another solution that a lot of people find more convenient is to have two lines and divert to the other line while you are already on a call. The advantage with this is that the person on the first call is aware that you have another call and you can take down details and call the other person back or, if the call is urgent, then you can take the new call.

This is just the beginnings of what sophisticated modern telephone exchanges can do. Several of the cable companies and, more recently BT, offer "voice-mail" facilities on their network. This service is like a very fancy answerphone that is easily controllable from a telephone pretty much anywhere in the world. You can change your message, answer several calls at once (if you needed to) and can, with some systems, divert your calls to any telephone of your choice.

As your company grows you can either purchase a private branch exchange (PBX) or you can use modern facilities offered by most digital telephone exchanges which will give you apparent PBX facilities but using the telephone company's telephone exchange. This can be ideal for small businesses. For example, you can forward a call to a colleague, just as you would with a PBX, but that colleague can be miles away working from home. Alternatively, a call can be forwarded from your phone to a colleague if you are already engaged on a call. All the flexibility of a PBX but spread over the whole country. For example five people working in a loose confederation can have one phone number between them just as if they all worked from the same business premises.

Three final business solutions offered by the telephone operators. If your business involves sending a lot of data over the telephone line, for example you are a graphic designer or you regularly send large data files to other companies or you are thinking of using video conferencing, then you should really investigate ISDN. This is a digital telephone service. Calls are charged at normal BT rates but the installation charges are astronomical and you have to purchase special equipment to even connect your ordinary phones, but ISDN is worth investigating.

Secondly, if you spend more than a couple of hours a day communicating between two sites it may be worth your purchasing a leased-line facility either from BT or your local cable company.

Finally, if you provide a service to the public, it is worth investigating the low tariff and Freefone services. Not only do they encourage business, but the providers will furnish you with a lot of useful marketing information and can help you distribute calls at busy times.

But there is a whole other side to using your phone system effectively: the integration of your telephone and computer systems. At the very least, this can be automatic dialling software that will use your modem to dial telephone numbers for you direct from a database, but more sophisticated solutions such as a call-queueing system can make sense even for sole traders if they use the telephone a lot. For example, I have been using a system called "callbox" for over five years now. It is not the latest technology but it still reminds me when I need to make a call and then dials it for me at the touch of a single key.

Modern telephone systems with their flexibility, enhanced functionality and improved ease of use allow the single trader, the three employee company and the 25-person concern to be just as professional as any large business in dealing with incoming and outgoing calls.

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THE SMALL OFFICE

Complimentary computers

Manek Dubash shops around for the best small business PCs



Hard choice: potential computer buyers can be baffled by the vast choice on offer

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Thanks mainly to Microsoft's Windows 95, computing power has never been cheaper and PCs have never been easier to use. For that reason, there's no reason not to choose a Windows 95 PC for a small or home office, but we'll also look at what's available for a restricted budget.

Always choose your application first, because different applications can require specialised types of hardware.

The most likely tasks you'll want a PC to perform are word processing, followed by some spreadsheet and database work. For this, the kind of PC you can buy for between £1000 and £1500 will do the job fine. There are only two types worth considering, the 486 and its successor the Pentium.

Memory size has a much bigger effect on performance than most people realise: extra memory is the most cost-effective performance upgrade you can buy. A £1500 PC will probably contain an Intel 75MHz Pentium with 8Mb of memory and 500Mb or more hard disk space. That will run most word processors happily, provided you don't want to run Windows 95 with more than one major program at the same time. If you need live information from your spreadsheet or database to appear in your word processor, you'll want at least two programs in memory at once. Eight megabytes then looks restrictive and you should consider upgrading to 16Mb.

If you're running Windows 95, it makes more sense for the budget-conscious to buy a slower and cheaper processor

but with more memory. You can pick up a PC with a 100MHz DX4, or a 60MHz or 66MHz Pentium, plus 16Mb of memory for well under £1500. For £2000 you can get a faster CPU with at least 16Mb of memory. This route is recommended because over the next year, programs written especially for Windows 95 will start to push Windows 3.11 programs off the dealers' shelves, and

they will need more memory. If you do decide to stick with Windows 3.11 for the time being, you can get a rock-bottom specification PC (486DX2/66 with 4Mb RAM) for well under £1000.

If a PC is to be used at home by other members of the family, then get one with sound and a CD-ROM drive already built in, as adding such items afterwards is a pain. For normal

business applications sound capabilities remain a luxury.

Consider getting a larger monitor as it can ease the strain of using a computer for long periods of time and also makes higher resolutions practical. A higher resolution means more information is displayed on the screen.

Deciding if you need a network depends on how much you share information, such as

your accounts files or perhaps a shared database of information containing contact details.

Initial hardware costs can be surprisingly low. The minimum is a network card and cable for each PC and a hub into which to plug the cables. For about £100 per PC, you can be up and running within an hour or two. Both Windows 3.11 and Windows 95 support this kind of networking. The result is a

view of the hard disks in other machines on the network.

Notebook PCs are close to becoming complete replacements for desktop PCs. If your work involves going out to meet people or if you work a lot at home and at the office, then a notebook, which can cost as little as £1500, is invaluable.

When buying, check that it has a dual-scan colour screen - that means you won't find the cursor disappears when you move it. A bigger budget should bring you a thin film transistor (TFT) display which looks brighter, has more contrast, but also, uses more battery power. The answer, make sure that the battery is the more modern nickel-metal-hydrate or lithium-ion versions.

Almost all have slots for those credit card-sized PC Card plug-in modems, so that you can move information around using the phone system. Hard disks in notebooks tend to be smaller, but there's little reason now to settle for less than 400Mb, and by using disk compression software this can be almost doubled. However, travelling on the mainland brings its own complications: you'll need a mains adaptor and at least one phone cable adaptor for your modem.

If you've got a network, there are a number of combination modems and network adaptor PC Cards available which will allow you to connect directly into the office network. Problems can arise from these products' tendencies to require lots of memory, but Windows 95 can alleviate this as it uses memory more intelligently.

A guide around the suite shops

MANEK DUBASH

With the correct application the PC can become as valuable and almost as easy to use as your right hand. Without it, the machine becomes a source of frustration and you lose much of the benefit of that expensive investment.

Choosing software in today's crowded market might seem tough. However, it is clear that in a small or home office you are best served by looking at the general purpose business application market. Not only is that where the top software vendors are concentrating their efforts, which brings you benefits in terms of technical excellence and software that's easy to use, but also you will be able to exchange files with others easily.

Most business application software these days - we're talking about word processors, spreadsheets, databases, presentation graphics and personal organisers - is sold in suites. These are bundles of applications with software to make it simpler to switch between one application and another. You can still buy the programs separately, but it's hardly worth it.

For instance, a leading suite sells for about £330, while each of the five applications in that box sells separately for only about £100 less. Note that upgrades are even cheaper, but you need to have bought one of the applications already to qualify. Though designed to entice you to carry on using the same vendor's products, software vendors occasionally offer a deal under which you can move from a competitor's product line to another's at little or even no cost.

The top-selling and probably the best suites are sold by Microsoft, Novell and Lotus and the best way to make a choice between them is to decide which mix of programs suits you. Microsoft's Office is the most popular and includes Word, the spreadsheet Excel, plus scheduling, presentation graphics and project management software. Novell's PerfectOffice presents you with WordPerfect, a spreadsheet, a presentation graphics package, a personal organiser, and a document publishing tool, while the almost identical Lotus SmartSuite, includes Lotus 1-2-3 and substitutes a database

with a document publisher. Only Novell doesn't have a Windows 95-specific product, but that's due in December or January.

You'd feel comfortable with most of these products, so another way of choosing is to pick one that fits best with products that others use. That's because it's a nuisance at best to have to change formats when you're sharing word processing and other documents and if your work extends to presentation, then it can be impossible to move freely from one file format to another.

Word processing is the most important application for most users. Few people will utilise more than 10 per cent of a word processor's features. All allow you to write and edit words and print them out looking almost exactly as they do on the screen. More specialised features allow you to both write and lay out books including automatic content and index generation, to design leaflets and booklets and to manage tabular information. Lotus WordPro and WordPerfect major in long documents such as books, while Microsoft Word is strongly marketed as smart software. That is software which watches what you're doing and flags what it thinks is an error. WordPerfect also includes linguistic rules which makes more appropriate choices when searching and replacing words of words, especially verbs and nouns.

Spreadsheets are likely to be another crucial factor. They are most often used for managing lists of information rather than helping accountants add up vast tables of numbers and can be more useful in the long term in helping to manage the financial side of the business. All now have comprehensive presentational capabilities so they will, for instance, print your invoices using information held in another spreadsheet. You can graph the profit and loss, project forwards and calculate depreciation on equipment - and that's just a small taste of what the spreadsheet can do.

Suites are a good way of getting a lot of software for relatively little, but beware that you could fill up to 100Mb of disk space if you install a whole suite. But the advantages are that you get all the software you're likely to need, at least to start with, and that it's designed to work together.

How to reach the world by sitting at your desk

STEVE HOMER

For the small business the internet and on-line services are invaluable tools. The internet is a giant spiralling network of computers each talking to each other. The most easy to understand facet of the internet is electronic mail. If I want to send an electronic message to a friend of mine in Germany I type it in on my computer and then use a modem to connect to a remote computer system. I send the message up to this system and it does the rest.

Incredibly, this costs not one penny over the internet. You do pay for the phone call to your

local computer service and with some on-line service providers such as Compuserve you are charged for each mail you send, but the actual transmission across the internet is absolutely free.

Now it need not be just short notes you are sending to people. You can send computer programs, photographic images, databases, artwork whatever. Anything you can store on a computer you can send over the internet.

But there is much more to the on-line world and the internet than just e-mail. Probably the most important facet of the on-line world for business

is the information stored out there, from credit information to on-line newspapers.

Many people also like the sense of community of an on-line service. CIX is a popular UK-based system where you can seek information on everything from your accounts to vegetarian restaurants. Another popular service is Compuserve and a newer arrival is the Microsoft Network. This should be a major force in the future, but still looks a little ill-formed and is only accessible if you have Windows 95 installed.

All of these services now provide access to the internet proper. This means that you

can not only use e-mail but that you can also access remote computers directly and access pages on the World Wide Web.

Few normal businesses will want to download files, but many will want access to the WWW. The Web is a massive collection of interlinked information that spans the globe. It covers literally every topic under the sun.

Each Web page has pointers either to other parts of the information stored on that computer or on other computers. The interest of the Web to small businesses are twofold. Firstly, the Web is another good source of infor-

mation and it is also rapidly becoming a centre of commerce. Secondly, it is a business opportunity, but this should not be over-estimated.

Any business can set up what is known as a home page. This is the introduction to your own Web world. Here you can promote your company.

Creating a Web site is now very easy. There are half a dozen, comparatively easy to use Web authoring tools on the market and many internet service providers such as Pipex and Demon will sell you space on their computers very cheaply and help you manage your site.

One important point to remember is that once you have set up your Web site it has to be managed properly. All too many small company Web sites become out of date the day after they are set up.

Someone will have to dedicate time to managing the Web site and if it is important to your business you may consider getting a Web site management company to look after it for you.

The internet should be a great tool for the small business person. A company employing five people can have just as effective a Web presence as a company with 5,000.

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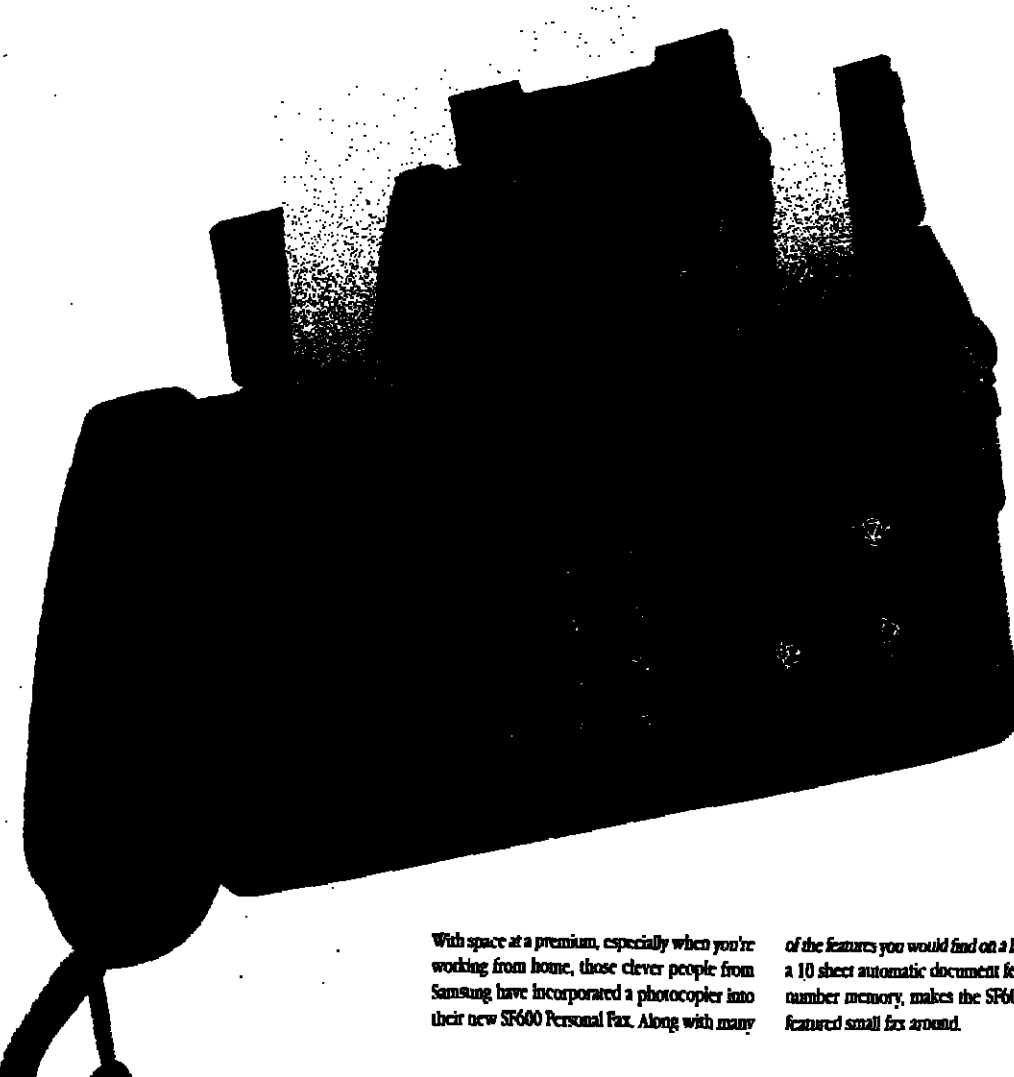
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THE SMALL OFFICE

Picking up extra costs with upgrade

The small business considering moving to Windows 95 from Windows 3.11 or Windows for Workgroups would be well advised to consider the ramifications such a move will actually entail.

To begin with, while an earlier Windows system will run adequately on 8 Megabytes of RAM (Random Access Memory), Windows 95 in the same amount of memory slows the whole computer down. Users with this sort of configuration report massive increases in hard disk activity as Windows 95 uses up all the physical memory and is reduced to simulating it with virtual memory. This is supplied by converting space on the hard disk, usually used for permanent storage of programs and data, into memory that Windows 95 can treat as real. The end result is a much slower rate of progress through tasks, since virtual memory is much less capable than real on-chip memory. This implies a need to increase the memory complement of the target computer to an absolute minimum of 12Mb, with 16Mb being the preferred entry level for Windows 95.

Secondly, there is the question of software. Although the applications in Microsoft Office

David Dorn advises caution for those thinking of Windows 95

for Windows 95 are highly desirable, the chances are that the applications currently running under Windows and Windows for Workgroups already do what their users want. The old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" seems particularly appropriate here. The advantages of running what is referred to already as "legacy software" under Microsoft's new operating system are debatable.

Software written for Windows 3.11 runs more slowly under Windows 95. Therefore, in order to see any speed gains (and therefore productivity), the new breed of 32 bit, Windows 95-specific applications may need to be installed, which obviously adds to the overall cost.

The final consideration is the time element. If a small business relies on a network, then

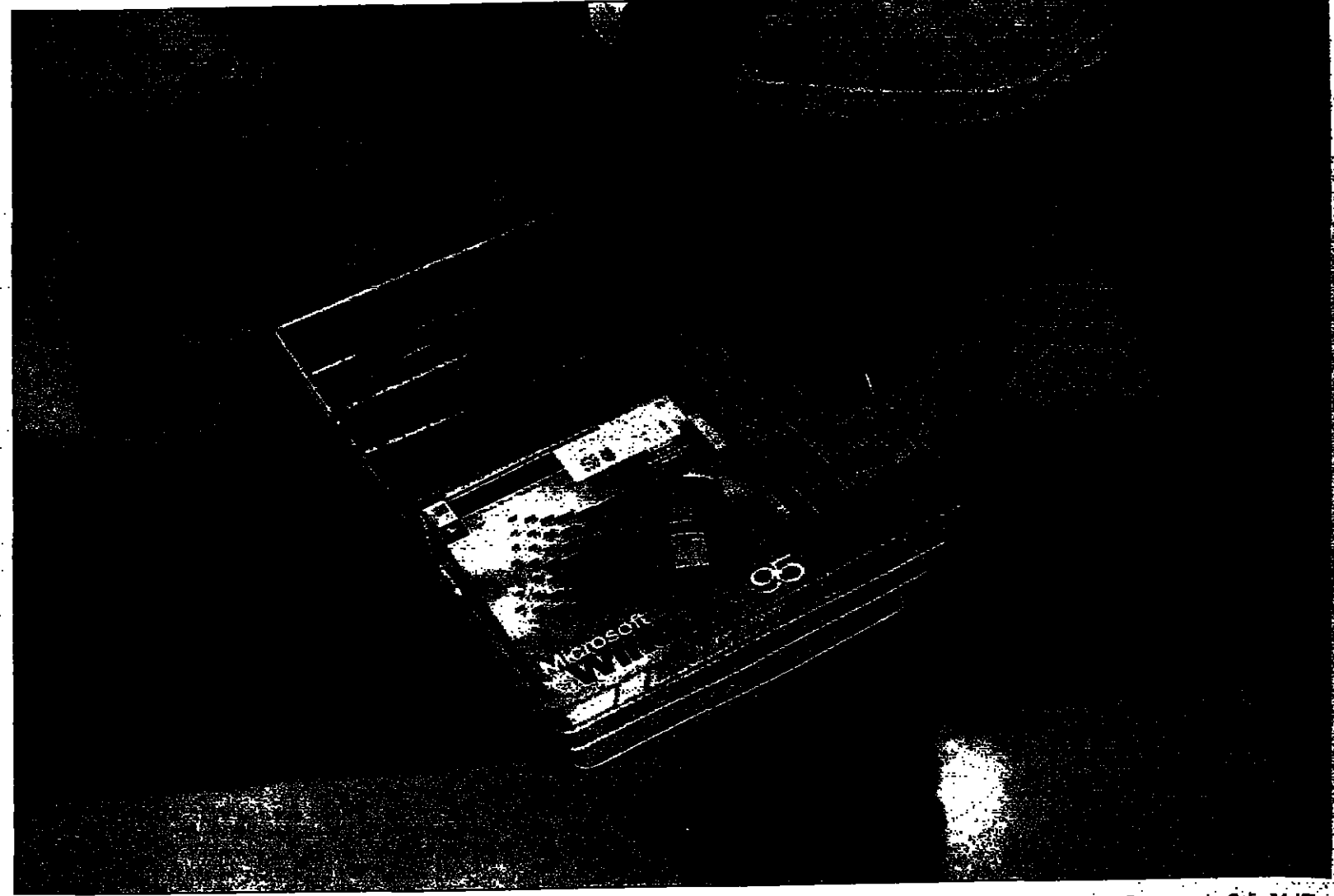
the most sensible option is to upgrade every machine on that network that currently runs Windows for Workgroups to Windows 95 in one fell swoop. Windows 95's networking, although similar in application (at the operating system level) to Windows for Workgroups, has a somewhat different and better concept to the way the user actually utilises it - the Network Neighbourhood.

Because of this, and even though the two operating systems will co-exist on the network and work together, a gradual upgrade of all the machines on the network doesn't make much sense. So, some time has to be set aside to upgrade each machine.

If at least one machine on the network is blessed with a CD ROM drive, upgrade times per machine vary between 30 minutes and two hours. On a 20 machine network, it is going to take two days to do the job properly.

A complete change of operating system inevitably causes some kind of upset. In this case, however, the three major factors each have a price.

In the case of RAM, there may be a cost factor of between £200 and £400 per machine.



Picking up a bargain? With Windows 95, purchasers may have to spend as much as £600 extra to reap the benefits

Photograph: Colin McQuinn

The software upgrades, although not strictly de rigueur, can cost anything from £300 to £600 per machine. At best, then, without allowing for lost productivity while the upgrade is being carried out, the cost of upgrading a single machine to

Windows 95, assuming that it needs a RAM upgrade and its user moves to 32 bit Windows 95 applications, will vary between £600 and £1000.

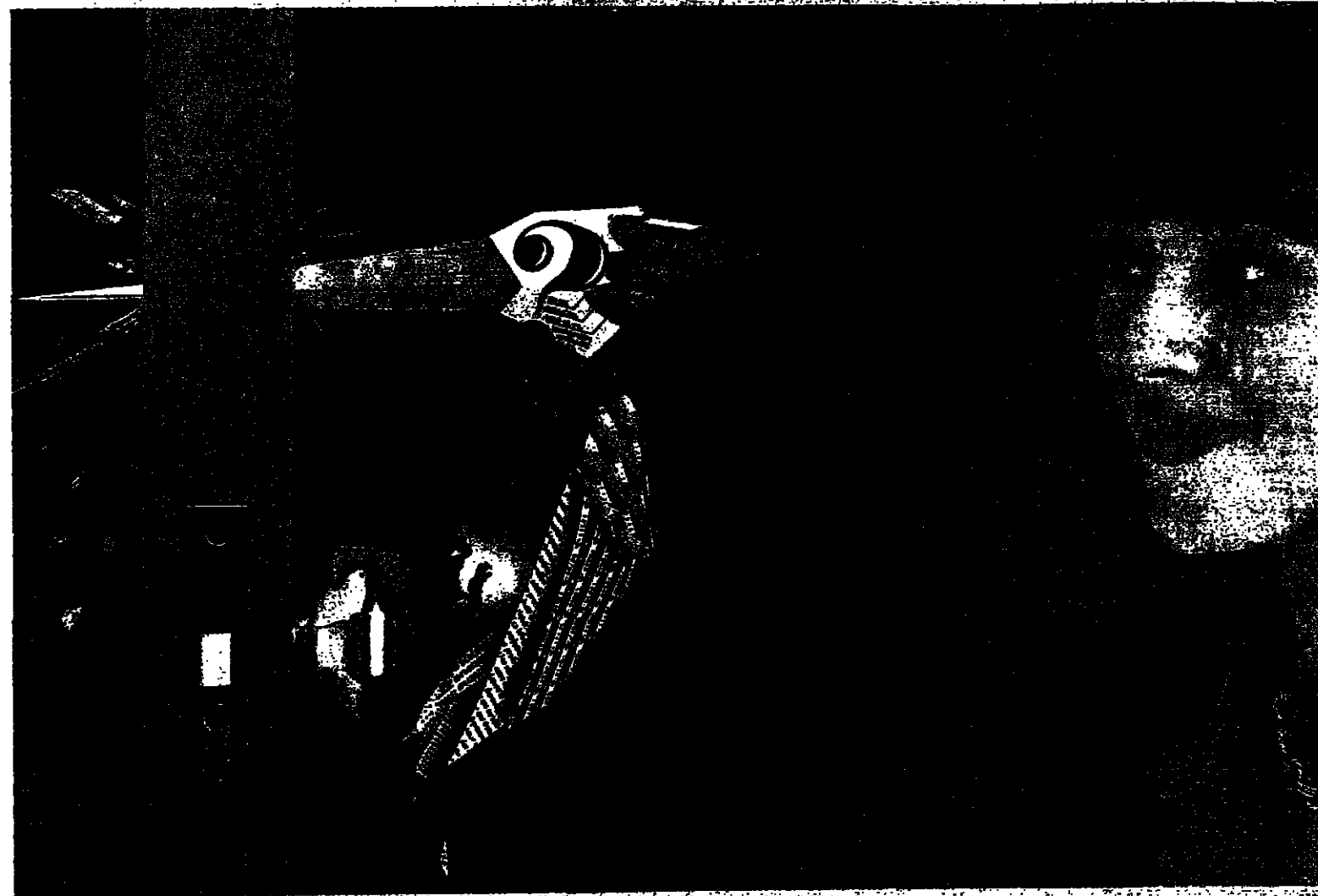
Since memory prices are set to drop over the next six months, that price range will

drop accordingly, but a 20-station network will still have a price tag of around £12,000 to upgrade.

In the short term, then, unless there is a pressing need to move to Windows 95 specific applications (such as decreased

productivity due to insufficient memory errors being reported when two or more large applications are opened under Windows 3.11) the small business is unlikely to gain much by moving to Windows 95. As memory prices drop and as

more competitive upgrade offers are made by application vendors with product to sell, the cost of upgrading will fall, and the upgrade process will become cheaper and easier. The best advice for the moment, then, is to wait.



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Modems now part of the office furniture

TONY DENNIS

Once regarded as something of a luxury, modems have now become part of the furniture in personal computer terms. Owning one is currently no more unusual than possessing a CD ROM drive or PC sound card.

This is because the humble modem offers the average computer user the most convenient means of transferring a computer file from point A to point B. Better still, the two computers involved don't even need to be of similar makes or types. Hence it is entirely possible to send a text file created on an IBM PC compatible running Microsoft Windows to a radically different computer such as an Apple Macintosh. All this transfer process requires is for the computer to be equipped with a program which makes it answer incoming calls. In reality most modem communication packages have a "host" or bulletin board facility so if you

care to dig deeply enough into the manual you can usually make the modem answer the phone.

Although LANs [Local Area Networks] - networks which connect computers together in the office - are relatively commonplace, the use of modems to provide dial-in access to these LANs is regarded as something of a new development. Luckily access to the office LAN by modem isn't too difficult a task to achieve. Both Apple and Microsoft have decided to build the ability to receive communications remotely by modem (rather than locally by Ethernet/Token Ring network card) into their respective operating system software.

This dial-in modem facility is often referred to as remote-LAN access. It means a PC user at home can gain access to the office network, then send files to the office laser printer; check on pending electronic mail and examine database records -

all over an ordinary telephone line. There's no need for expensive (leased) lines to be installed.

The down side is that picking the right modem for your actual needs isn't necessarily easy. For example, if you possess one of the latest portable/notebook-sized computers, you would be very wise to consider one of the latest PCMCIA/PC Card style modems which tuck away neatly inside the portable PC. Provided that the PC has a PCMCIA compatible slot, of course.

Those who are considering changing their computer in the near future are best advised to go for a free-standing desktop modem rather than an internal modem card. With the free-standing approach the modem can still be used, even if you decide to swap from the Macintosh to a PC. Alternatively, if you have little desk space, then a card which tucks away neatly inside the computer itself would be the best choice.

Getting the message, whatever type it is

TONY DENNIS

In order to give modem users even better value for money, manufacturers began to build support for fax communications into their modems.

The SoHo worker is actually faced with a bewildering choice of products when it comes to acquiring a fax capability. With only light fax traffic the prime motivation is to permit a single telephone line to be utilised for normal voice communications as well as for fax.

This raises the question of what you put on the end of the line to answer incoming calls. Take a trip down London's Tottenham Court Road and you'll find all manner of devices which claim they can answer incoming calls and send faxes to the fax machine and messages to the answering machine.

In truth, by the time you've paid out for a fax switch which actually does this, you might as well have rented an extra telephone line.

A more plausible solution promoted by the likes of Amstrad is a fax machine with built in telephone answering machine. However, most people prefer to use an existing, more fully-featured answering machine rather than a cut-down version fitted inside the fax.

So rival fax machine suppliers like Samsung provide a facility which allows an answering machine to be attached to the fax machine. When the phone rings, if no incoming fax call is detected, then the Samsung starts the answering machine.

Still, fax machines cost over

£100 whereas for less than that you can buy a modem which handles both fax and data. Better still the vast majority of fax modems are supplied together with free suitable software - although Apple Macintosh owners have to hunt a little harder for this.

Most fax-modem owners therefore find there is no need for an expensive speech/fax switch since most of the time they know when to expect a fax. To receive a fax is a simple matter of running the fax software and plugging the modem into the BT socket and waiting. Sending faxes is just as easy since the fax modem sends what is on your screen to the fax machine, without the need for printing it out first.

This is effective until you want to scribble some comments on a document. It is possible to do this on the computer with a Paint program, but such things involve a great deal of work.

The better alternative is to purchase a scanner which enables you to feed a printed/scribbled upon document back into the computer and send it via the fax modem. Enter the Scanfax from Plustek. This is designed deliberately to let you scan in documents and then utilise your other computer equipment.

With the Scanfax you don't need a plain paper fax machine because anything you want to print comes out via your laser printer. Better still with Scanfax, your fax machine doesn't become outdated since you can take advantage of the latest fax speeds built into the fax modem.

An alternative is the Faxjet from Fujitsu which is akin to a fax modem in its own little

box. It allows computer users to receive faxes and have them print straight out of a Hewlett Packard LaserJet compatible printer without the computer even needing to be turned on. It reassures those who don't like leaving their computer turned on overnight, but it is not possible to scan in documents with it.

There are a few fax machines which link directly to personal computers and this area Wordcraft's LaserFax software has built quite a niche for itself. However, the really big breakthrough comes from modems which combine all three functions: modem, fax and answering machine. In effect, these products use the computer's hard disk for storing voice messages instead of putting them on magnetic tape. The early examples from the likes of Datafax Design, Martignoni and US Robotics have a few rough edges which need ironing out. Nevertheless with a three-in-one you don't need to worry, as it can store whatever type of message is sent to you.

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THE SMALL OFFICE

The trials and tribulations of being home alone

It's not all a bed of roses working from home you know. Just as everybody is deciding to start, after seven years, I decided to stop.

About three months ago I moved into a nice little office in the middle of the bustling West End of London. And there are plenty of small offices for £50-70 a week. I have to say taking on an outside office was one of the best decisions of my life.

One of the major motivators for me getting an office was to be closer to my friends and to be more able to nip off to press conferences which are usually held in Central London. Rule number one: working from home on your own can be very lonely.

My new office, somewhat bizarrely, is in the Scala School of Wine (excellent wine courses for very reasonable fees by the way), and it is nice to see a friendly face when I come to work. If you have a family and are working from home then you will suffer from problems

Steve Homer decided after seven years of working from home that he had had enough

of interruption rather than loneliness. But if you are single, be warned.

My second problem with working from home was a very untidy flat. That is now sorted. I get around 30-40 pieces of post a day. When I was working from home and under pressure, paper used to spread around the flat. Files of paper to do with various features, other piles for things I really should read. I used to have piles of paper in the kitchen, the sitting room, the bedroom and, god help me, even sometimes in the bathroom! Now I would not say I have the tidiest of offices, but at least 80 per cent of my flat is under control.

So be warned, if you have a lot of paper or other things coming in to a small office it is difficult for it not to spread.

The third problem was never being able to escape work. This was probably the most important factor for me. It is nice to be able to go to work and come home from it. If you work from home there is always the temptation to try and do a little bit more.

Often, as a not very self-disciplined worker, I would spend the whole weekend thinking I really should get on with some work but not getting any done. I would feel dissatisfied about not doing the work and would not enjoy the leisure. Now at least if I decide not to work, I don't. So watch out if you have the least difficulty in switching off.

Finally, working from home offers lots of distractions. The possibility of constant snacking and watching *Neighbours* to

name but two. Since getting the office I now have no idea what has been happening in Ramsay Street for the last three months and have lost a stone in weight.

There is also one unexpected benefit in having the office. I can now take work home. This might sound daft, but it is not. Taking work home normally involves taking one specific job home and all the 101 things that press in on you at the office no longer need to be addressed. I have written half a dozen articles on portable computers this way.

If this is the sort of working from home you intend then I am all for it. It is having your whole work experience at home I have concerns about.

I am sure that for some people working from home is a godsend. Personally, I am happier and probably richer (I am more efficient here) by having my own little work place and keeping my home for the part of life that really matters - family and friends.



Take note: working from an office for Steve Homer has meant a tidier life all round.

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

The extra burden of a life away from the office

It was Sir John Harvey-Jones who once memorably pointed out to a conference audience the downside to having an office at home: "My wife and I are having a drink at the end of the day and the fax starts to clatter. It's just next door and I can hear it bloody clattering... I'm quite incapable of not going and lifting up the corner of the piece of paper, and then I'm away again," he said.

Both computer and telecommunications technologies have developed to the stage where an increasing number of people are finding that they can do more of their work from a base at home. You don't necessarily have to be a full-time telecommuter to know that information can be processed or data manipulated almost as easily down a telephone line as through an office LAN.

But whilst it may be easy to do an occasional report on a lap-top perched on a dining table, anything much more than this demands the creation of a dedicated area of space which can serve as the home-office. As Sir John Harvey-Jones became aware, it's all too easy otherwise to find that work demands begin to encroach on valuable home-life.

According to the last census, about 1.2 million people work from their homes and, whilst this includes some people engaged in traditional trades, it also reflects the growing number of information-crunching teleworkers. The teleworking lifestyle can be a welcome alternative to the pressures of urban commuting, but there are a number of pitfalls for the unwary. Having an office at home may raise unexpected issues of taxation, insurance and planning law.

The Inland Revenue moved earlier this year to amend the mortgage tax rules, in recognition, as it put it, that "it is becoming increasingly common for properties to be used both for residential and business purposes". It is now easier for accounting purposes to split a single mortgage loan, in order to claim the interest component for the "work" part of the building as a fully deductible business expense. Given that mortgage tax relief is now only 15 per cent and is also subject to the £30,000-cap, this clearly can be advantageous to anyone who is self-employed and running their business from a home base. (Employees, unfortunately, cannot benefit directly.)

The Revenue's concession does, however, raise other issues. Firstly, a potential Capital Gains liability will arise on the business part of the property - although with the housing market so flat, it seems unlikely that this need be much of a concern at present. Anyone who converts part of their house too obviously into a place of work also runs the risk that their local authority will try to levy business rates, in addition to the Council Tax payable.

There may also be planning controls to consider. In general terms, planning permission for partial change of use is not normally necessary if the main use of a house remains as a family home and if nobody else is employed there. The local planning authority is more

Andrew Bibby reports on the hidden costs of working from home

likely to take an interest if you advertise your business externally or take on extra staff (such as receptionists or secretaries), if trade vehicles are parked outside or if the neighbours begin to complain of a constant stream of visitors during working hours.

Whether or not you choose to make use of the tax concession for relief on the business share of your mortgage interest, you are likely to find that the Inland Revenue will make you jump through an extra hoop when you first come to arrange the mortgage. The Telecottage Association, the main organisation representing Britain's home-based teleworkers, last month strongly criticised the Revenue for insisting that anyone using their home for work purposes must apply to their tax office for inclusion in the MIRAS (Mortgage Interest Relief at Source) scheme, rather than simply filling in the usual MIRAS self-certification form. According to the Telecottage Association's Alan Denbigh, the procedure is unnecessary since the vast majority of home-based workers are eligible for MIRAS.

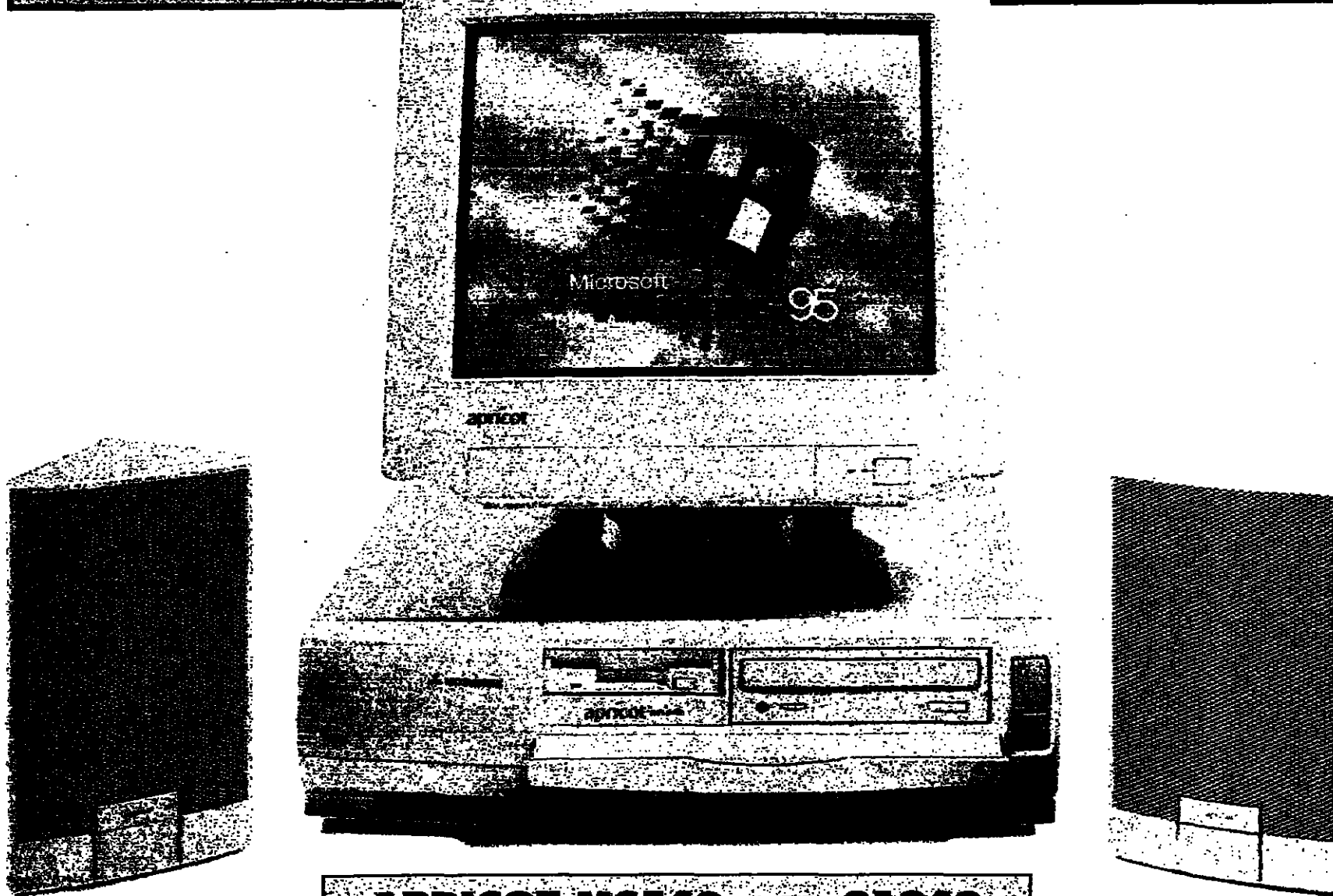
Working from a home office also has implications for insurance. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to forget to look at the small print of your insurance policy at the time when you install the PC, fax machine, laser printer or scanner.

In the past, some people have discovered only when they had to make a claim that their ordinary household contents policy did not cover equipment used for work purposes. This situation is changing. Increasingly insurers are becoming more willing to allow for changing patterns of work and some firms are now prepared to extend cover to include a limited amount of work equipment, either with or without increased premiums. However, there are still some firms who continue to decline to insure these risks in household contents policies. Whatever their attitude, all insurers will expect you to tell them if your home is also being used as a workplace.

Some people may prefer to play safe and take out one of the specialist insurance packages especially designed for home-based workers. London-based brokers Tolson Messenger, for example, has for the past three years been offering a "Home-Office Insurance" policy, underwritten by Commercial Union. The standard £120-premium includes covers for £7500 of business equipment and offers consequential-loss protection, for example for the costs incurred after a burglary or fire.

Other insurers who have made a pitch for this market include Torquay brokers Michael Pavay, Tredway and Co of Wokingham and Oxford-based Mathews Comfort.

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obituaries/gazette

Eleanor Aller

It would be difficult to name a more versatile musician than the cellist Eleanor Aller. She took solo playing, string quartets, orchestral playing, motion pictures and television all in her stride and excelled in every field. She once said: "You name it, I've done it! I've done rock and roll. And I loved every minute of it!" Aller was also the first woman to succeed as a musician in the Hollywood film-making industry, thus pioneering the way for future generations of female musicians.

Eleanor Aller was born in New York into a Russian émigré family where musicians had flourished for generations. Her father was a cellist who gave her her first lessons when she was nine, and within a year she had won a gold medal as first prize in a competition. At 12 she won another competition which earned her an appearance at Carnegie Hall. At 16 she was awarded a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music to study with Felix Salmond, which she once described as "the most exhilarating experience" of her musical life. She regarded Salmond as one of the greatest musicians she had ever met, and of his teaching she said: "My father had given me a wonderful basic training so when I went to him I was already a cellist, but what Salmond did was to teach me to play musically."

On graduating she made a number of tours as a soloist through the United States but her heart had been set on chamber music ever since, as a child, she would lie in bed listening to her family playing string quartets far into the night. So when she met the violinist Felix Slatkin - whom she married in 1939 - and discovered a kindred spirit, they played with friends on every free evening. Sometimes they would perform for composers writing for the film industry, and on one of these occasions an executive from Warner Brothers was present. He said they needed a principal cellist for their studio orchestra and suggested she might



Aller: "You name it, I've done it"

audition for the job. She came through a week of very tough examination with flying colours and, at 19, was the youngest person ever to have held such a position - one she held for 36 years. In 1972 she moved on to 20th Century-Fox, where she

was their principal cellist until 1985.

When Felix Slatkin was asked to form a string quartet with Joachim Chassman as second violin and the violinist Paul Robyn, Aller was a natural choice for cellist, and they called themselves the Hollywood Quartet.

When the three main members enlisted for military service in the Second World War, the group as it was disbanded. On Felix Slatkin's demobilisation from the Air Corps in 1945, he formed another Hollywood Quartet with Paul Shore on second violin and gave a series of three public concerts which were sold out for every performance. A representative from Capitol Records attended one of these and immediately offered them a contract. From this time onwards their success was legendary. They not only made some of the finest recordings of the day but also gave concerts throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Europe, and made a highly successful British debut at the Edinburgh Festival.

Over the years they had many interesting experiences, such as when Capitol wanted them to record Arnold Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* in its original form, which entailed a private visit to play to the composer in Los Angeles. He interrupted them at every other bar, but after they had played for several hours in a temperature of 104°F he finally approved, and offered them bourbon and doughnuts as refreshment. One of Aller's prize possessions was a photograph of Schoenberg which arrived two weeks later, autographed: "For the Hollywood String Quartet for playing my *Verklärte Nacht* with such subtle beauty." They are still the only quartet to have the original score with Schoenberg's signature, which is otherwise unpublished.

They were also the first quartet to record the William Walton String Quartet. When the composer visited the US much later, he told them he hoped no

one else would record the work because they had captured it exactly what he wanted and yet were 9,000 miles distant.

Aller's career as principal cellist for Warner Brothers was equally distinguished. Erich Korngold wrote his very difficult Cello Concerto for her in the film *Destiny* (1946), starring Bette Davis and Claude Rains with Paul Henreid as the virtuosos soloists. She also gave the premiere of this concerto with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Besides having played for countless films there were other occasions when she accompanied stars like Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne and Frank Sinatra in live concerts. In the late Eighties she was invited to coach string students at the Toronto Conservatory of Music.

Of her cello playing, her son the conductor Leonard Slatkin, speaking on behalf of his brother the cellist Frederick Zlotkin and himself, said: "Our mother was a peerless cellist who inspired musicians around the world. She was uncompromising in her musical beliefs and everyone who knew her respected her judgement. It is gratifying that, towards the end of her life, she began to get the recognition she long deserved."

As a woman she had a warm, larger-than-life personality with a wicked sense of humour. She also had an indefatigable ability to learn new skills. After Felix Slatkin died in 1963, she achieved a long-cherished ambition to become an aeroplane pilot. She took lessons and, after 50 hours, flew solo and continued to enjoy her hobby until 1986 when she was 69. She once told me: "I know I'm a crazy lady but I like to try everything and there isn't enough time to do it all."

Margaret Campbell

Eleanor Aller, cellist: born New York City 20 May 1917; married 1939 Felix Slatkin (died 1963; two sons); died Los Angeles 12 October 1995.

Jackie Mann

Jackie Mann had his time of glory 55 years ago, when he was a Spitfire pilot in the Battle of Britain, but had fame thrust on him by becoming one of the last hostages to be freed in Beirut. Many will remember the moment the RAF, with rare delicacy, managed to combine time and memory by arranging for a Spitfire to fly overhead as Jackie Mann emerged from the plane which brought him from the forced freedom ceremonies for the benefit of the Syrians in Damascus to the real welcome at the Lyneham air station in Britain.

Mann was a sergeant pilot in the Battle of Britain, and was shot down several times, on the last occasion being seriously burned. He became one of the "guinea-pigs", the fliers whose bodies were painfully and slowly patched up by the great plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe, and attended meetings of that dwindling band whenever he could. For Jackie Mann, those wartime days were the highspot of his career. Behind the bar he later managed in Beirut he kept a book listing the names of all those who fought in the great air battle. If someone boasted of having taken part, Mann would look up the book. "Can't find your name here," he would say. And that would be the end of that particular customer.

After his wartime service, Mann joined Middle East Airlines, and eventually became chief pilot of what was and still is the best airline in the region. He married Sunnie McWhirter, who was the company's first hostess, and together they lived the good life in pre-war Beirut - drinks at the St George's Club with the other English expatriates, the London papers delivered a day late, shopping at Smith's supermarket for English food. Jackie remained the complete Englishman, hardly noticing those among whom he lived. In the 42 years he spent in Beirut, he learned hardly a word of Arabic, and disliked the marvellous Lebanese food.

In other ways too, Jackie Mann was stuck in time. When Middle East Airlines converted its fleet from turbo-prop to jet planes, he found difficulty in making the transition. Eventually, he retired early. Then came the time of the doldrums. He managed two bars - the first, frequented by journalists, he took some pleasure in naming the "Cock and Bull". From flying planes, he moved to talking about them with the expatriate pilots who still flew in and out of Beirut.

Gradually, the scene changed. In 1975 the civil war in Lebanon began, and the good life was over. The streets became the battleground, in-

flation made comfortable living more difficult, and slowly the expatriate community on which Mann depended dwindled away. When the hostage-taking began almost all foreigners left the country, but Jackie and his wife, who had started a riding stable, had no thought of going. He was convinced he was safe, because, he said, everyone knew he had no money and was of no importance to anyone.

He was wrong: deprived of other targets, the kidnappers seized Mann in 1989, releasing him at the end of 1991. When he came out, Mann revealed he had been beaten during captivity, but within days he turned from a frail old man into the indomitable character many had known - a man who was very angry at his captors. No turning the



Mann: Englishman abroad

other cheek for Jackie Mann; if he had managed to get his kidnappers at the end of a gun, there is no doubt what he would have done. His period of convalescence as a guest of the RAF must have been one of the happiest times of his life. He was back in the milieu he loved best and missed so much, given special respect by senior officers young enough to be his sons, who paid to him the tribute due to The Few.

But once that time was over, Mann was not going to remain: after being an Englishman abroad so long, he could not take the cold and fogs of a British winter. He did not go back to Beirut, which he would certainly have done if it had been feasible, but settled instead for Cyprus, that haven of Britishness in the eastern Mediterranean. There, he found old flying cronies, friends from Beirut to reminisce with, English beer and food.

This last phase of Jackie Mann's life, until his wife's death from cancer in November 1992, was perhaps the best of all, a tiny recompense for the awful time of captivity.

John Bullock

Jack Mann, pilot: born 1914; CBE 1992; married 1943 Mrs Sunnie McWhirter (died 1992; one daughter); died Nicosia, Cyprus 12 November 1995.



Inspiring: Coposu (left) in a gesture of reconciliation with his political opponent Ion Iliescu, February 1990

Corneliu Coposu

Corneliu Coposu's story is one of the most remarkable in the annals of Communist repression in eastern Europe. In 1990, aged 74, he emerged from nearly 50 years of prison and police surveillance to revive the National Peasant and Christian Democratic Party (PNȚCD) and make it a magnet of opposition to the ex-Communist in charge of Romania. He was a steadfast opponent of intolerance and did his best to foster relations with Romania's Hungarian and Jewish minorities.

Born in the Transylvanian county of Salaj in 1916, Coposu trained as a lawyer and was close to Iuliu Maniu, leader of the National Peasant Party during the 1937-47 period, acting as his personal secretary before becoming a deputy secretary-general of the party in 1945. His links with a political figure widely respected for his ethical standards and for having played a key role in 1918 in uniting Transylvania with the Romanian state lent stature to Coposu, as did his own prison sufferings after 1947. When he was released in 1964, his weight had fallen from 114 to 51 kilograms and he had forgotten how to speak, his last eight years of captivity having been spent in solitary confinement. His wife Ardetie had died in prison as had a great many of the tens of thousands of party members imprisoned after 1947.

In 1964, at a time when the Communist leadership was trying to mobilise support on nationalist grounds for its bid to detach a still Stalinist Romania from Moscow's orbit, Coposu turned down an invitation to occupy an honourific public office. In the quarter of a century of enforced residence and constant surveillance by the secret police that followed, Coposu found political activity impossible. Nevertheless, in 1987, thanks to a clandestine meeting with a senior Italian Christian Democrat, the PNȚCD was enrolled in the European Christian Democratic Union, which has provided material assistance for the party in the 1990s.

Coposu took part in the

street protests in Bucharest at the end of 1989 that contributed to the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu. But Ion Iliescu, who led the internal party push against the dictator, froze Coposu out during these dramatic events. When elections were hastily called in May 1990 by expected Communists who had formed the National Salvation Front (NSF), it became clear that Coposu's party had lost the social and economic bases which had sustained it before 1945. The worlds of private agriculture, urban commerce and religious faith from which it had derived values, material support and recruits had been shattered in the Communist era.

But, to the democratically minded young, Coposu's dignity, simplicity of manner and clarity of expression made him an inspiring figure. By promoting younger people, he tried to prevent his party becoming a gerontocracy dominated by aged figures keen to resume careers interrupted in the 1940s. Whatever future awaits it now, he ensured that it avoided the splits that have disfigured most other Romanian parties.

Under a less clear-sighted and principled leader, the PNȚCD might well have been tempted to compromise with authoritarian forces in order to strengthen its appeal before voters who had been exposed to anti-democratic conditioning over many years. Coposu instead emphasised a civic patriotism and was prepared to co-operate with Romania's ethnic Hungarian leaders, provided the country's territorial integrity was never placed in question. Public statements he made, starting in June 1990, show that he saw an alliance spanning the whole of the Romanian democratic camp as the only feasible way of grabbing the political initiative from the "neo-Communists" of the NSF, a party which he believed was controlled by insincere democrats determined to retain a monopoly of power.

Months of patient negotiation gave rise in 1991 to the Democratic Convention, an

opposition electoral alliance. In 1992 its candidates were elected as mayors in large cities across Romania and in the September general election it deprived the ruling party of its majority and forced President Iliescu to a second ballot before he was elected. Many had expected that Iliescu and his supporters could be driven from office, but Coposu's firm anti-Communism and his support for the restoration of King Michael to the throne may have scared off floating voters.

The years after 1992 were frustrating for Coposu. Ultra-nationalists, whose newspapers subjected him to vicious character assassinations, were incorporated into the government to enjoy the spoils of office. The opposition alliance has become increasingly frayed as it is clear that reformists stand little chance of wresting power from President Iliescu in next year's elections. Coposu was dismayed by the retreat of the European ideal and the rise of intolerant nationalism not only in Serbia but also in Britain.

Coposu was a guest of honour at the 1990 Tory party conference but was well aware that the Major government's hostility to European institutions, such as the European Court of Human Rights, made it much easier for nationalists in Romania to flout these institutions by citing the precedent of respected Western democracies.

Relations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats were more rewarding: an inveterate smoker, Coposu spent long periods in Germany receiving treatment for a lung complaint. His place in Romanian history is assured and it is likely that future generations will grant him the honours denied in a lifetime full of storms and personal tragedies which Coposu bore with remarkable stoicism.

Tom Gallagher

Corneliu Coposu, politician: born Balota 20 May 1916; President PNȚCD 1990-95; Member of Parliament 1992-95; died Bucharest 11 November 1995.

Gp Capt F. C. Richardson

F. C. Richardson made a unique and outstanding contribution to RAF navigation, for in 1940-41 - working in the Air Ministry while the Battle of Britain was at its height - he wrote the *Manual of Air Navigation* (known in the Service as AP [Air Publication] 1234), a classic account of basic principles with *Alice in Wonderland* quotations at the head of each chapter.

Published by HMSO in 1941, it was circulated to all flying training schools in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme for many years afterwards, and was translated into many languages - including German (though the Luftwaffe captain given the task found the English of Lewis Carroll beyond him).

"Dickie" Richardson's pre-war career had well prepared him for this task. He had joined the RAF in 1933 on a short-service commission and was trained in Egypt, at No 4 Flying Training School, Abu Suwa, where he passed out with an "Exceptional" rating as a pilot. He was then posted to the prestigious No 216 bomber transport squadron, at Heliopolis near Cairo.

Operations to Kenya and West Africa, and across the deserts of Iraq (vividly described in a recently completed but as yet unpublished autobiography), gave him his first practical experience in air navigation; and this was consolidated when in 1937-38 he took the specialist course at the School of Air Navigation at Manston. His success there, and the resultant "N" after his name in the Air Force List, led to his posting to the Air Ministry to write the *Manual of Air Navigation*.

Richardson then did an operational tour, commanding a Whitley squadron, No 502, at St Eval, Cornwall, in 1942-43 during the Battle of the Atlantic. By now a Wing Commander, he was appointed Chief Navigation



Richardson: air navigation

Officer at Coastal Command HQ.

His operational experiences led him to influence the Air Staff to make two changes in the role and status of navigators: limiting their airborne duty to 10 hours (unless a second navigation was being carried) and making it possible for them to become captains of aircraft.

In post-war years he helped to set up the Empire Navigation School (famous for its trans-polar and world circumnavigation flights by the Lancaster Aries) at Shawbury, in Shropshire, becoming Deputy Commandant before his retirement from the RAF in 1958.

Humphrey Wynn

Frederick Charles Richardson, air force officer: born Streatham, London 24 January 1912; married 1937 Mary Greaves (one son, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Pinner, Middlesex 12 October 1995.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

SALAMANA: Esther (née Poljanovskaya), on Thursday 9 November 1995, aged 95 years, much-loved wife of Meyer, mother, sister, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Private funeral at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Fougny Lane, NW10. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

SHORE: Barbara, widow of Sydney, of Walsby and Great Gidding. Died 10 November. Will always be lovingly remembered by Judy, Vicky, Carolyn, Richard and all the grandchildren. Service at Great Gidding on 20 November at 1pm. Donations to ARC.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Weddings, anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Gazette, 100, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010. and are charged at 50p a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales visits the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Latvia. The Princess Royal visits Belgium, China and Korea. Princess Margaret, President, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, opens the Helen Orlin Hospital, Day Centre at Holyhead, and as Patron, visits the Anglican Branch of the Girls' Group for the Deaf, at the Victorian Centre, Holyhead, Gwynedd.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, mounted on the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Ewart Bell, former senior civil servant, 71; **The Most Rev Dr George Carey**, Archbishop of Canterbury, 68; **Sir John Cotes**, Head of the Diplomatic Service, 58; **Miss Adrienne Corri**, actress, 64; **Sir Lincoln Hallinan**, barrister and magistrate, 73; **Sir Anthony Jacobs**, chairman, Tricorelle Group, 64; **The Rev Patricia Johns**, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Wantage, 62; **Mr Kenneth Kemp**, honorary life president, Smith and Nephew, 74; **Miss Joan Lester MP**, 64; **Sir Arnold Lindsay**, former chairman, GEC, 93; **Maj-Gen James Doiran Lunt**, 78; **Mr John McGuckian**, chairman, Ulster Television, 56; **Mr Basil Morson**, pathologist, 74; **Admiral Sir William O'Brien**, 79; **Mr Terry Reid**, musician, 46; **Mr Anthony T. Shadforth**, former chairman, Inco Europe, 64; **Miss Alexandra Shulman**, Editor, *Vogue*, 38; **Sir Donald Thompson MP**, 64.

Anniversaries

Births: St Augustine of Hippo, 354; Edward III, King, 1312; Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, military leader, 1567; General Sir John Moore, 1761; Edward John Trelawny, writer and traveller, 1792; Henry Brinley Richards, pianist and composer, 1819; Charles Frederick Worth, couturier, 1825; James Clerk Maxwell, physicist, 1831; Edwin Thomas Booth, actor, 1833; Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, writer and traveller, 1850; George Whitefield Chadwick, composer, 1854; Eugene Ionesco, author and playwright, 1912; **Deaths:** Pope St Nicholas the Great, 867; Malcolm III, King of the Scots, killed 1093; Prince Henry the Navigator, 1460; Ludovico Carracci,

painter, 1619; Thomas Erpenius (van Erpe), Orientalist, 1624; George Sale, translator of the Koran, 1736; William Emy, painter, 1849; Sir John Forbes, physician and author, 1861; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1861; Gioacchino Antonio Rossini, composer, 1868; Armand-Michel d'Angbadie, explorer, 1893; Camille Pissarro, painter, 1903; Francis Thompson, poet, 1907; Enrico Cechetti, dancer, 1928; Roark Whitney Wickliffe Bradford, novelist, 1948; Jacques Fath, couturier, 1954; Elsa Schiaparelli, couturière, 1973; Robert Cedric Sherriff, playwright and novelist, 1975; Chesney Allen, comedian, 1982. On this day: the Scots defeated by the English at Alnwick, 1093; the Jacobites were defeated at Sheriffmuir and Preston, 1715; Texas declared its independence of Mexico, 1835; a telegraphic service between London and Paris began, 1851; the fourth phase of the Battle of the Somme began, 1916; a Pacific treaty was signed between the United States, the British Empire, France and Japan, 1921; the inner coffin of Tutankhamen was opened at Luxor, 1925; Ahmed Soekarno became president of the Republic of Indonesia, 1945; a cyclone and tidal waves killed more than 500,000 people in East Pakistan, 1970; Iceland agreed a plan to end the "Cold War" with Britain, 1973; a state of emergency was proclaimed in Britain, following an overtime ban by electricity and coal workers, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Abbo of Fleury, St Arcadius, St Brice or Brilius, St Denis or Denis of Seville, St Eugenius of Toledo, St Frances Xavier Cabrini, St Homobonus, St Macellendus, St Nicholas I, pope and St Stanislaus Kostka.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Bernadette Archer, "The Art of Fashion: Art Deco fashion plates", 2.30pm.
University College London, London WC1: Dr Eric Cohen, "Theodore Tullier (1857-1929): how much kidney is enough?", 5.30pm.
Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Graeme Gilchrist, "City Institutions: the money market", 1pm.

Dinners

Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers
Sir Colin Cowdrey was in the chair at the 42nd Annual Dinner of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers held on Saturday at the Fort Crest Hotel, Brighthelm, West Yorkshire. The Hon Sir Oliver Popplewell QC, President of the MCC, Sir Lawrence Byford, President of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, and Mr Kevin Connolly also spoke.

Service appointments

ROYAL NAVY
Rear-Admiral J.R. Clarke, to be Hydrographer of the Navy and Chief Executive of the Hydrographic Agency, Commodore A.B. Ross RN, promoted Rear-Admiral and to be Assistant Director Operations Division International Military Staff.
ARMY
Lt-Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, to be Commander-in-Chief Land Command.
Maj-Gen G.A. Ewer, to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Logistics).

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*:

Costs
McVell v Southwark Crown Court QBD(DC) (Simon Brown LJ, Scott Baker JJ); 25 Oct 1995

It was incorrect for a Crown court to refuse to award a defendant's costs order after acceding to a submission of no case to answer, on the basis that there would have been a case to answer on alternative charges had they been brought, since that did not constitute material on which the court could hold there was a positive reason for declining to make the costs order.

Charles Salter (Wilson Barra) for the defendant.

Drugs

R v Gregory, CA (Crim Div) (Beldam LJ, Scott Baker, Stuart-White JJ); 19 Oct 1995

Where a defendant is convicted of drug offences and the court is minded of making a confiscation order under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, and where the realisable asset is the equity in the matrimonial home, a number of difficulties arise which require the court to proceed with great caution.

Julia Dick (Registrar of Criminal

CASE SUMMARIES

13 November 1995

Appeals for the appellant: John H. Skightfulme (CPS) for the Crown.

Revenue
Nuclear Electric plc v Bradley (Inspirer of Taxes); CA (Sir Thomas Bingham MR, Millett, Schiemann LJ); 17 Oct 1995

Interest accruing on sums set aside, but not specifically dedicated, for decommissioning nuclear reactors and storing and processing spent nuclear fuel was not "trading income" within s 393 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The making of investments and receipt of interest was not an integral part of the trade of generating electricity. Nor could it be said for certain that the funds in question would in fact be used for the purpose of decommissioning reactors or disposing of spent fuel over a period as long as the projected 80 years, notwithstanding that the company was at any given time insolvent, and all its resources would in all probability have to be used for the purpose. Nor would it have made any difference if there had been a segregated fund dedicated to meeting the future liabilities. A taxpayer could not convert investment

income into trading income by simply creating a segregated fund.

John Gardner QC, Jonathan Paocek and Rubinder Singh (Inland Revenue Solicitor for the Crown); Graham Aaronson QC and Joseph Hoge (Nuclear Electric) for Nuclear Electric.

Sentence

R v Dunham; CA (Crim Div) (Beldam LJ, Scott Baker, Stuart-White JJ); 10 Oct 1995
A court has jurisdiction to re-sentence a defendant after an unlawful sentence had been rescinded provided that it was made clear that the eventual sentence was passed within the 28-day time limit prescribed by s 47(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. That course was only open to the court if it was of the opinion that rescission did not of itself prevent it.

Raja Reiff-Mugrovo (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Michael Forward (CPS) for the Crown.

Value added tax

Housing Va P & J Autos v Customs and Excise Commissioners; CA (Stuart-Smith, Pili LJ, Sir John Bingham); 17 Oct 1995
The commissioners could make

assessments for a number of prescribed accounting periods in one total sum and on one assessment form even where it would have been possible to make separate assessments for each period, as had been held in the CA in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Le Riffi Ltd* [1991] STC 103. Where calculations had been provided in schedules sent separately to the taxpayer showing how the sums assessed had been arrived at, the taxpayer had been adequately notified of the assessment.

Roderick Cordara (HFL Mainprice) for the taxpayer; Guy Sankley QC (Customs & Excise Solicitor) for the Crown.

CORRECTION: The case summary of *R v HM Commissioners of Inland Revenue, ex p Dhesi* (Case Summaries, 18 August) should be replaced by the following summary:

A decision of a High Court judge whether to grant a voluntary bill of indictment is not susceptible of judicial review, but the decision of a prosecutor to seek a voluntary bill may be open to review on limited grounds. However, a dispute about the defendant's fitness to be committed or stand trial was not such a ground, but was something which the judge would take into account when supporting material in coming to his decision whether to grant the voluntary bill.

10/11/95

THINKERS OF THE NINETIES

A moral life in this godless world

Today, **Bryan Appleyard** presents the first in his six-part series about the thinkers who are helping to shape our ideas in the Nineties. He starts with Peter Singer, the philosopher of animal liberation and prophet of the global conscience, whose writings have helped to persuade people around the world to become vegetarians

Peter Singer is the most effective philosopher alive. His book, *Animal Liberation*, published in 1975, created a worldwide movement to stop the exploitation of animals. His writings have turned thousands of readers into vegetarians. His ethics provide the intellectual underpinning for popular convictions about contemporary issues ranging from abortion to the environment.

He is the prophet of the global conscience. He provides a hard philosophical case for concerns – for animals or the environment – that are often dismissed as sentimental. He believes he has found a tough, logical basis for a virtuous, moral life in a godless world.

His books are lucid, gripping and persuasive. And even his critics admire the consistency and determination of his thought. Unlike some thinkers, Singer pursues his ideas to their logical and frequently shocking conclusions. So, for example, he concludes that a newborn baby or an old man may be less valuable entities than an adult gorilla, or that it may be desirable to kill handicapped babies.

We have come, he says, to the end of a 2,000-year history of religious domination of morality. He has a precise date for that end: 4 February 1993, when British law lords ruled that Anthony Bland, in a coma since the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, could be killed by his doctors. Under Christianity, human life from conception to death is sacred and unique. Unlike the life of any animal, it is God-given and beyond interference by mere humans. The decision to let Bland die marked the end of that belief.

But once God and the sanctity of human life are gone, the question then becomes: why should we choose to behave well? Why not kill, rape and murder as the fancy takes us? Just because we might get caught does not amount to an ethical programme.

The most potent answer to this in previous philosophy came from the 18th-century German Immanuel Kant. He said we could derive no guide for our actions from the world. All we had was "the moral law within". The only possible moral act was one that sprang from a pure, disinterested sense of duty to this law.

Singer dismisses Kant. The doctrine of duty is rigid and pointless. Why should an act have to be so utterly disinterested to be good? If I give blood because it makes me feel good, how is that worse than giving blood because I feel I must? Either way the blood is given.

Singer also dismisses much of philosophy after Kant. He has no interest in the kind of inward-looking thought that argues about the meaning of words or the existence or otherwise of a table. And he has little regard for most moral philosophy. To some extent, moral philosophy after Kant ceased to be about practical morality and instead became about whether morality was possible at all after the certainties of Christianity had crumbled. Singer wants a practical ethical system that works in the real world.

He finds one in the philosophy of utilitarianism. This appears in the writings of the English philosophers Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. They offered a clear, practical way to define a moral act. They said it was any act that produced the greatest good for the greatest number.

In Classical Utilitarianism, this good was defined as happiness. It was thought that some simple means of measurement of happiness could be devised. With this measurement, firm decisions could be made about what was moral and what was not.

Singer is not satisfied with the word "happiness". Instead, he embraces the philosophy known as Preference Utilitarianism. In this, the idea of happiness is replaced by the idea of individual preference – what is moral is that which satisfies the most interests and preferences. Singer brings Preference Utilitarianism to the modern world. This means he is not an original thinker. What he has done is apply, with supreme determination, an existing ethical system to contemporary issues. In the case of animals, for example, his philosophy allows them to be included as beings to whom we can extend ethical concern precisely because they are obviously beings with interests and preferences.

His utilitarianism convinces him that ethics can be rationally established and it is possible for modern man to live a fully ethical life. He began with animals because they represented a huge number of beings whose ethical status had scarcely been considered. He argued that higher animals clearly had many of the attributes we use to define a person – intention, sense of a future and a past, even, sometimes, language. Lower animals might be less fully considered but their primary interest – to go on living – should still be incorporated into the ethical realm. We should not, therefore, fish – even fish can be defined as beings with an interest in their continued existence.

1: PETER SINGER

'After ruling our thoughts and our decisions about life and death for nearly 2,000 years, the traditional Western ethic has collapsed'

LIFE: Peter Singer was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1946. He is Professor of Philosophy and deputy director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University, Melbourne. He was the founding president of the International Association of Bioethics, and is now president of the Australia and New Zealand Federation of Animal Societies. He is to stand for the Australian Greens in Victoria in the next federal elections.

WORK: His 1975 book, *Animal Liberation*, effectively created the worldwide animal rights movement. He has since published a huge range of books including *The Expanding Circle*, which is said to have created thousands of vegetarians around the world, *Practical Ethics* and *How Are We to Live?*

LIFE: He is married with three daughters. He lists his recreations as reading, writing, walking, bodysurfing, cross-country skiing and growing fruit and vegetables.

CRITICS: His thinking has inspired demonstrations, abuse and the banning of his lectures in Germany and Austria. Protestors say his beliefs about infanticide and euthanasia are similar to those of the Nazis. Academic critics say his thinking is unoriginal, a resurrection of a philosophy they regard as discredited.



The idea of a being with interests is thus extended beyond the merely human and, once that bridge is crossed, the rest follows. Abortion and euthanasia are permissible because the quality of being of a foetus or a terminally ill old person is too low and not protected by any view that human life is sacred. Even after birth, handicapped babies might be killed if parents and doctors agree, and so on.

In his later work, Singer extends the application of his ethics. He attacks the individualism of America – damning the futility of its obsession with self-help and psychoanalysis while its own cities are falling apart and Africans are starving. He feels that Western man has turned his ethical concerns inwards upon himself, and the private development of the personality has taken over from more urgent concerns. Always his insistence is that the purposelessness often felt by modern man is futile; there is so much to do and, now, on the basis of his ethics, so much reason to do it.

Singer lives his philosophy, giving substantial portions of his income to foreign aid agencies, and he embraces environmentalism to the point where he is soon to stand as a Green Party candidate for the Senate of the state of Victoria. He is also a co-founder of the Great Age Project which aims to obtain basic rights for chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans. The attractions of his thought, especially

to the young, are obvious. You no longer have to sit at the feet of some guru, preacher or therapist to find a meaning for life. You simply obey the dictates of reason. The success of the animal liberation and environmental movements indicates more than just a convincing argument; it indicates the extent to which people discover personal fulfilment in attaching themselves to a big, external project.

However, Singer's message is not universally welcomed, even by young, left-inclined people. In Germany and Austria, student demonstrations have prevented discussion of his ideas. Many young Germans identify his position – notably on euthanasia and infanticide – with that of the Nazis.

This is, at one level, merely ironic. Singer is of German-Jewish descent and three of his family died in concentration camps. But, at a deeper level, it indicates crucial problems with his thought. For the German students have a point. In Preference Utilitarianism, why might it not be right to observe the preferences of a majority who wished to kill some minority – Jews, for example – in their midst? If the only moral authority is the sum total of interests and preferences, then there is nothing to stop those interests when they become brutalised; there is no court of appeal.

For many, this argument indicates a decisive failing in the philosophy. All forms of utilitarianism fail as autonomous moral systems because you invariably have to step outside the system to make it acceptable. You have to say, at some point, there are some things that are absolutely forbidden and that means utilitarianism alone is not enough. Majorities must not kill minorities because it is wrong according to some higher principle, rather than a mere calculus of interest or happiness.

That principle is said by some philosophers to be the accumulations of wisdom and experience. But Singer has no time for such arguments. He is a hard rationalist and a revolutionary. History, in his view, is being overthrown simply by the consistency of his reasoning.

Yet, for all his weaknesses, he is the most characteristic prophet of the Nineties. He offers a rational programme of concern and explanation to a global culture confused about what is right and wrong. He offers a project to those unsure of how to react to the deluge of information and demands that pour out of the electronically united world. His assaults on what he sees as the greed culture of the Eighties, as well as his justification of popular anxieties about animals and the environment, place him at the centre of the biggest, most global issues of the day. He may not survive in intellectual history, but in political, social and cultural history his place is assured.

Illustration: Chris Priestley

Diary

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS

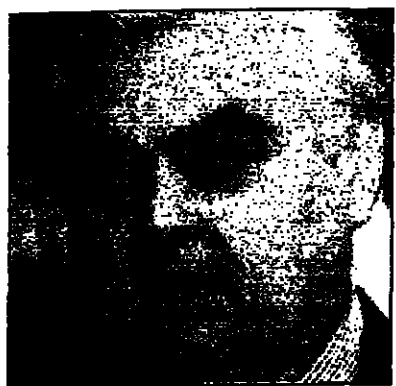


Spare a thought for Norman Lamont, who in recent months has vainly carried his carpet-bag around several Conservative constituency associations: rejection is making him desperate. In a last wild bid for the affections of middle England, this man of the world was to be found last week in the *Daily Mail* attacking the permissive society and its alleged perpetrator, Roy Jenkins – a wheeze given relevance because Jenkins was 75 on Saturday.

Lord Jenkins's villainies include being critical of other chancellors (including N Lamont), being pompous, preferring Oxford to Cambridge and having a speech defect. But he will have his comeuppance: "How will he explain," sneers Lamont triumphantly, "one notable absence from his party – someone who found time to attend Lady T's celebration – the Queen?" However, my favourite Lamont line was: "What does Lord Jenkins, on his *chaise-longue*, know of the tiger economies of the East?"

Now for all I know, Jenkins may indeed occasionally loll on a *chaise-longue*, or even sprawl on a tiger-skin rug, but I am tired of the canard that because he has always made time for reading, writing, eating, drinking and socialising, he is intrinsically lazy. In his time the chap has been *inter alia* the Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, President of the SDP and a distinguished writer and reviewer; in his 75th year he has produced a fine biography of Gladstone. If that's laziness, I'm Norman Lamont.

I am being driven mildly potty not just by my own absent-mindedness but by that of my friends. Quite apart from what I lost through recent burglarious action, in the past few weeks I have mislaid in Belfast, Dublin, Nottingham, Windermerre and on various trains, a book, a favourite cheque card, a jacket, my favourite jewellery and my reading glasses, and have four times had to replace my Remembrance Day poppy; and I don't even want to think about the lost pieces of paper. Several of these objects have been retrieved, but it all takes time. In the same period I have returned to various friends two overcoats, two pairs of glasses and a book, as well as being the source of telephone numbers for three who have respectively lost an address book, filofax and Psion organiser. My



Lamont: appeal to little England

ever-practical friend Una suggests that objects normally carried should be programmed to follow their owner if abandoned. Thus one would be pursued down the street by one's book or briefcase, but not by one's shoes. It's a tricky area and I see many problems and grey areas, but I offer it as an idea.

There is much about Alan Clark that I find less than edifying – not least his decidedly dodgy notion that Churchill should have made peace with Hitler in 1941. (I would like here to share with you George Hummer's relevant clericalism, but caution confines me to the lines "Alan Clark/Found infidelity a lark".) But I am so passionate an admirer of his diaries that I was thrilled to see him arrive in a restaurant where I was being lunched

last week. My expectations were dashed when he drank only water; it was a shock to the system akin to seeing Joan Collins wearing a crumpled frock, Roy Hattersley refusing a second helping or Norman Lamont being magnanimous.

While on anti-stereotypes, as listed on the Brussels mug I wrote about recently, here are my favourite suggestions from William Hazlett: *Spendthrift as a Scot*, *Monotonic as the Welsh*, *Reasonable as a Serb*, *Timid as a Zulu*, *Libidinous as an Eskimo* ("Do you remember," he asks, "the bright midjet with a rigid digit?")

Lots of you rushed to put Kate Odgers and her family out of their long-standing misery over their lack of a question for the answer: "One rode a horse and the other rhododendron." Some laboured hard to invent questions. Bill Haskins: "When they went over the sticks why did the jockey become a winner and Charon a bloomer? (Sticks = Styx; Charon = ferryman to Elysium across Styx; rhododendron = 'rowed a dead one')." Geoff Heath: "What is the difference between Anne Phillips (Princess Royal) and an azalea?" "What is the difference between Boadicea and Britannia?" offers Jennie Move, adding: "Admittedly, this is unlikely to provoke uproarious mirth unless told to an audience acquainted with the existence of the



Joan in crumple? Surely not

rhododendron variety 'Britannia' (and perhaps not even then), but I feel it has a certain indefinable 1940s flavour to it."

Michael Leapman – the fate of whose allotment I used to follow spellbound many years ago when he was a *Times* diarist – is even more learned: "In riddles, the answer to 'one rode a horse' is often Lady Godiva. The next step is to find a rhododendron with a similar name – eg Lady Clementine Mitford. So the riddle could be: 'What is the difference between Lady Godiva and Lady Clementine Mitford?'"

Several of you sent the correct and much defter question: "Which would you rather or go fishing?" You heard or read this piece of nonsense at home and at school as early as the Twenties and as late as the Sixties. Among those blamed were the radio comedy show ITMA, the humour of Penge and Beckenham, countless schoolmasters and the vogue for surrealism in Thirties Benenden. Liz Flower thought the culprits might have been the Irish, Gurdjieff, or the Forties *Zeitschrift*, when such riddles were "a general existential sign of relieved madness post-war". Dick Hughes recalls his mother and doting aunts thinking such riddles hugely funny. "Some... were designed to be pointless, and therein lay their supposed hilarity." He remembers: "Why is an oven when it's hot?" Answer: "The more you rub it, the faster." Other correspondents offer: "Why is a mouse when it spins?" – Because the higher, the fewer; and "Why is a duck? – Because one of its legs is both the same."

Happy, Odgerses? For myself, I hope fervently that these riddles do not come back into vogue.

The Enrolmerick "A muchacha hermosa from Spain/in love with fear/eg as Sim Fén/Said 'Arriba Irlanda/But I must add with candour/... has foxed most of you; some of the few brave attempts have also foxed me. Best of the printable are Joss Peto's 'Tá mé bhean lewd and profane' and Frederick Robinson's 'Verwechselft du 'sprengen' mit 'wechen'."

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Nigeria: the price of timidity

Until this weekend the vast majority of readers of this newspaper – and most of its journalists – had never heard of Ogoniland. Yet this desperately poor corner of Nigeria has provided many of us with a good living for 30 years. Its oil has earned vast profits for Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, and the revenue has been spent by the Nigerian government and oligarchy in large measure on European goods.

Nice for us, wonderful for the Nigerian elite – but a tragedy for the Ogoni. Their country has been severely polluted by oil leaks, while little or nothing has been spent on improving life for this minor member of Nigeria's fractious family of 250 tribes. Small wonder that their resentment should have given rise to Ken Saro-Wiwa's campaign on behalf of the Ogoni and that this campaign – frustrated and suppressed by the military regime – should eventually have become militant, with violent results. It was always a sorry story.

Now the Ogonis have a martyr: a poet hanged in irons after a show trial. And we failed to save him. Respectable governments hoped and believed that hush-hush diplomacy and pleas behind the scenes would work: that the Nigerian government would do us all a favour and quietly commute his sentence and eventually let him out, allowing him to move to London or New York. Then we could all get on with the business of arguing with General Sani Abacha and his cronies about a return to democracy, while continuing to trade with Nigeria. This strategy now lies in ruins.

So arguments have begun again about the efficacy of sanctions (in the case of

Nigeria, these would have to be oil sanctions) and the role of morality in foreign policy. In the anti-camp are those who argue that we stand to lose much of our annual £600m-worth of trade with Nigeria, thereby jeopardising British jobs and livelihoods; that economic sanctions are never effective; that only the poorer Nigerians would suffer; and that international action might precipitate a Nigerian bloodbath.

It is certainly true that unless the international community stands united over oil sanctions, Britain will simply be replaced by other trade partners and any embargo will fail. However, recent history records three effective examples of the use of economic sanctions: in South Africa, Iraq and Serbia. So it can be done. It is true, as well, that poorer Nigerians will suffer but richer ones – influential with the military regime – will suffer far more.

However, the last argument is the most important. If the present military regime continues in power, then bloody chaos is inevitable. Under Abacha repression has got worse, the economy has slumped, crime and corruption have risen to levels that threaten all social cohesion; Nigeria is becoming a basket-case. The lessons of Rwanda and, indeed, the former Yugoslavia suggest that the greatest danger could come when elements in the present regime – incapable of reforming the mess they themselves have created – decide that fomenting tribal differences will help to save their own skins.

That is why we must shake off our timidity and take action. An oil embargo should start now. Whatever the appeasers say, the price of inaction is always heavy – and is always eventually paid.

Keep cash out of the courts

Tens of thousands of pounds are being paid in total to many of the witnesses in the Rosemary West trial. Anne Marie Davis, Mrs West's stepdaughter, gets £3,000 from the *Daily Star*. Caroline Owens, attacked by the Wests in 1972, will get £20,000 from the *Sun*. Kathryn Halliday receives £8,000 from the *Sunday Mirror*. The list of lucrative liaisons between tabloid and witness goes on and on.

Perhaps we should not find this surprising. Allegations of sexual abuse and violence make a gripping, if distressing, tale. Many people want to read the witnesses' stories and are prepared to pay for the newspapers that deliver the details. Even the Official Solicitor has entered the market for criminal allegations and confessions. Fred West's autobiography and the police transcripts of his interviews are to be sold in a publishing deal for a post-trial book. Little wonder, then, that the witnesses want their cut, too.

But it cannot be right that participants in criminal proceedings are involved in financial transactions over the details of their evidence. We would be outraged if the police were found slipping the odd tenner to the eyewitness of a burglary, or if the defence in a fraud case had promised a sympathetic witness a holiday in the Caribbean. Yet chequebook journalism during a trial raises exactly the same kinds of concerns.

Imagine the tabloid hack turning up on your doorstep to hear about the neigh-

bours who have appeared in court. "Sorry, not enough sex, can't pay more than £200. Now if, by any chance, there was a whip? In which case, perhaps we could stretch to a grand." And, let's face it, £1,000 is a tempting inducement to a little exaggeration or a few embellishments.

To seek to influence the evidence a witness will give is illegal – it counts as contempt of court. But how on earth do you prove it? It is extremely difficult to show that a particular witness decided to change his/her testimony purely on the basis of the money s/he was promised.

So the buying up of witnesses continues unabated and public confidence in the judicial process continues to decline. For if money and the media are seen to be pervasive influences in the courtroom, then victims and defendants will lose faith in the idea of a fair trial.

The Press Complaints Commission is hopelessly inadequate to sort this mess out. "Paying witnesses or potential witnesses in current criminal proceedings" clearly violates its code of conduct. Yet this has made no difference to the behaviour of the tabloid newspapers who pretend to abide by it.

It is time for the law to step in. It should be illegal for newspapers to engage in financial transactions – whether in fact or in promise – with witnesses until a trial is over. The Lord Chancellor should find a way to do this as fast as possible, before a serious violation of justice takes place.

ANOTHER VIEW Peter Melchett

Pull out now, Shell

When Greenpeace protested outside Shell International's headquarters in London in January this year, to draw attention to the forthcoming trial of Ken Saro-Wiwa, Shell International's executives invited me and Ken's son, Ken Wiwa, in for a chat.

They told us they were simply a business, in no position to intervene in Nigeria's legal processes, that it was nothing to do with them, and that in any event Ken Saro-Wiwa was charged with the very serious crime of murder. Even on the environmental destruction in the Niger delta region, they claimed that much of the damage was caused by non-oil activity – and was therefore nothing to do with them either.

Shell is dependent on the Nigerian state for security and suppression of dissent, and works with the state oil company, a vital source of revenues for the despotic junta. It is absurd for its executives to claim that they can play such a dominant role in Nigerian society and yet have no involvement and no responsibility for wider questions of environmental or human rights.

By March, when Greenpeace met Shell executives again, we presented them with a document leaked from Nigeria which alleged that repression of the Ogoni people had been carried out on Shell's behalf. The respected QC Michael Birnbaum, in his report on Ken Saro-Wiwa's trial, said the proceedings

were unjust. But still Shell claimed the trial was nothing to do with it – it could never intervene.

Then, hours before Ken's "judicial murder" (John Major's phrase), Shell International finally acted and did write to the junta.

Shell has been callous, opportunistic, arrogant and inconsistent. President Jacques Chirac has discovered this year that just because nuclear tests have been carried out for years thousands of miles away in the Pacific, public opposition to them cannot be ignored. Shell UK learnt that getting the UK government's OK to dump the Brent Spar out of sight in the deep ocean did not mean public opinion on the environment could be ignored.

Greenpeace has said to Shell that if it cannot operate in Nigeria to the same environmental standards as it claims so much credit for in countries such as the UK and the Netherlands, it should pull out. Shell's response is the same as manufacturers and sellers of arms down the centuries – if we don't do it, someone else will.

But as the world saw in South Africa, disinvestment by one multinational makes the position of others less tenable and political change more likely. Shell should pull out of Nigeria now.

Lord Melchett is executive director of Greenpeace UK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saro-Wiwa: beware tribalism; boycott Shell

From Mr John Igbino

Sir: Ken Saro-Wiwa and his co-defendants were not hanged because of who they were, or for what they believed in, or for murder, or for their fight against Shell; they were hanged for playing confrontational and divisive tribal politics ("World fury as Nigeria sends writer to gallows", 11 November).

There is a precedent in the history of Nigeria for the decision to hang Saro-Wiwa and his associates. Those Nigerians old enough will remember Isaac Adaka Boro. Like Saro-Wiwa, Boro's politics were centred on his tribe in the village of Yenogoa; like Saro-Wiwa, Boro's early fights were with the oil companies and, like Saro-Wiwa, Boro's politics were confrontational and developed into armed rebellion. In the ensuing battle to suppress the rebellion, many innocent Nigerians were killed. The present government does not want a repeat of the Yenogoa episode, especially in the same part of the country.

Nigeria is a country of minorities, with nearly 250 tribes, and we are trying to build a nation based on the equality of all the constituent tribes. The task of building a cohesive nation is not helped if we have a divisive tribal leader telling the rest of the country that they live because there is oil on his tribal land. The remaining 249 tribes in Nigeria resent this, especially as Ogoniland produces no more than a quarter of our total oil output.

In their condemnation the media and politicians have allowed emotion and indignation to blur their assessments. They have failed to visualise a

Nigeria in which the leaders of 250 tribes start to assert their tribal rights and begin to settle old scores.

Such a scenario evokes the image of Rwanda: of Africans butchering themselves, with the West playing the sympathetic angel of mercy, sending relief and emergency supplies.

Nigerians are wise and thoughtful people. They know the problems tribalism poses to the survival of their country and they have used that knowledge to define the kind of country they want to live in. They want a tolerant country in which the rights of one tribe are carefully balanced and weighed against those of the others.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN IGBINO
London, SW4
11 November

From Mr John Boocock
Sir: The hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni people in Nigeria is not the end of the campaign for human rights in that country.

The plight of the Ogoni people has always been affected by the attitude of multinational companies who operate in Nigeria and who benefit from collusion with its military government. The actions of Shell in the Niger river delta immediately spring to mind and there are others (the British armaments industry, for one). We should all support the boycott of Shell. Shell is guilty with other foreign oil companies of turning the lush Niger delta into a wasteland.

This boycott should have been implemented in 1990, when the

Ogoni people held a peaceful protest against the rape of their land by Shell. This protest prompted Shell to call on the Nigerian military for support. The Government will not act on this matter as it is at the beck and call of the US, Nigeria's biggest oil customer. It is time for people to take things into their own hands and to start the boycott of Shell.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BOOCOCK
Barbarville,
Ross-shire

From Mr J. V. Parkin
Sir: The executions carried out in Nigeria are an outrage. Routine expressions of condemnation from national leaders are not an adequate response. It seems clear that the international community must act in a decisive way.

If the UN wishes to retain any credibility, or to have any resemblance to the hopes of its founders, decisive action is necessary.

The current rulers of Nigeria must be required to account for their actions before an international forum. Ideally this should be the Court of Human Rights. It is wholly unacceptable that any democratic government, whatever may be its investment in Nigeria, could dissent.

If our political leaders have any guts, they will ensure that this happens. If the international community does not respond in this way, the concept of an international consensus on human rights is meaningless.

Yours faithfully,
J. V. PARKIN
Lewick,
Shetland
11 November

Israeli poll system helps extremists

From Dr Andrew Shacknove

Sir: In the past week, striving to come to terms with the terrible assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, we search for explanations. Many pieces of the puzzle have been identified: a fanatical young extremist, security lapses, the public availability of weapons, the accessibility of Israel's leaders, divergent visions of Israel itself and its relations with the Palestinians, and the acts and omissions of Likud in providing a forum for radical voices.

Another factor may be the unusual features of Israel's electoral system. Israel has an extreme form of proportional representation (PR) wherein small parties proliferate, needing to reach only a very low threshold of votes in order to enter the Knesset (parliament). This, in turn, creates a chronic problem for the major parties, Likud and

Labour alike, in their efforts to form coalition governments. Small parties enjoy disproportionate power. Binyamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, is reaching out to right-wing extremists not because he shares their views, but because he will sooner or later need their votes.

PR has much to recommend it. It is arguably more democratic than other systems. But each country needs to balance the dual objectives of democracy and order. At one extreme, single party systems err in favour of order at too high a price to democracy. The Israeli system may be making the opposite mistake. Perhaps it is finally time for Israel to raise the threshold of votes small parties need to enter the Knesset. Doing so will not eliminate the extremists. But it may serve to limit their political importance by incorporating them into larger and more moderate parties.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SHACKNOVE

A loving smack

From Dr Duncan Carmichael

Sir: With reference to the recommendations made by the Commission on Children and Violence (report, 9 November), it is generally accepted that children (and adults) need boundaries in which to live, outside of which they know they will be punished.

There are different punishments suitable to different situations and a smack is often the appropriate deterrent. Removing it leaves parents more important in their attempt to give their

children a framework in which to thrive.

The confusion comes in differentiating a smack from a blow. The one is borne out of love; the other, a violent act of emotional and physical abuse.

Of all the forms of abuse, emotional is the most difficult to prosecute against and the scars in the children are the hardest to display. To ban smacking may remove a symptom, but not the cause, of emotional abuse.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN CARMICHAEL
Farnham, Surrey

Smaller classes do benefit pupils

From Cllr Gita Rae

Sir: The latest Ofsted survey states that there is no correlation between class size and standard of teaching ("Class-size survey is blow to parents", 10 November). However, all the report has shown is that quality of teaching varies and that some very good teachers teach large classes. Who knows how much better those teachers could be if they were teaching smaller classes?

I am a governor of a comprehensive school which has a policy of keeping class sizes at or below 25 pupils. We know that a difference in class size between 24 and 30 means a difference of 20 per cent in the amount of time a teacher can spend with each pupil during a lesson, 20 per cent in the amount of time a teacher spends on marking each homework, and 20 per cent in the amount of space each child has in the classroom.

Whatever the age of the child, these facts must affect the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore it could be argued that the standard of teaching generally would rise if class sizes were smaller. The only way to test this would be to let those teachers who were measured for the Ofsted survey teach smaller classes for a while and then to measure the performance of the pupils again.

Yours faithfully,
GITA RAE
Councillor for Hampton Wick
Teddington,
Middlesex
10 November

Why airlines copy passports

From Mr R. J. Ayling

Sir: With regard to your article on British Airways photocopying "ethnic" passengers' passports ("Airline in secret check on blacks", 10 November), we made a mistake in photocopying Tony Kelly's passport. He and his family are British nationals and we had no reason to doubt that they would be admitted into the US. I have written to him and apologised.

I regret that it is necessary to photocopy the passports of any passengers, but we do so as a precaution against heavy fines imposed on us by the immigration authorities of a number of countries including Britain and the US. But this is not done on the basis of their race or colour.

Several countries, including Britain, the US and Canada in effect require airlines to carry out immigration checks before passengers embark on flights to those countries. We, in common with other international airlines, strongly object to these requirements, which turn our employees into unpaid immigration officers. We objected when the legislation was introduced in Britain in 1987 and we have consistently objected since.

If we carry a passenger who does not have the right immigration documents for one of these countries, we are heavily fined. Here in Britain the fines are at the rate of £2,000 per person. In the US they are \$3,000 per person, in Canada they can be as high as \$3,200 per person.

These fines are imposed even

where passengers have valid documents when they check in, but cannot produce them at disembarkation. Last year the Home Office imposed fines in these cases of more than £8m. The US imposed fines of more than \$7m, relating to almost 2,500 cases.

If airlines can show the authorities that the passengers did in fact possess immigration documents at the point of embarkation the fines are generally waived.

So in cases where passengers are of nationalities, or are travelling in circumstances, which we believe may give rise to fines under these immigration laws, as a precaution we photostat the travel documents, including passports, at the point of embarkation.

The authorities in Britain, the US and Canada know that we do this, and indeed the Canadian authorities actually encourage us to do so. We also say that we may do so in our conditions of carriage.

But we only do so to avoid the very large fines imposed and to comply with the immigration policies of the countries in question. If the immigration authorities did not expect airlines to act as unpaid immigration officers, it would not be necessary.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT AYLING
Group Managing Director
British Airways
Heathrow Airport (London)
Hounslow
10 November

No attack on childless couples

From Mr Julian Brazier

Sir: Your article "The right-wing plot to get Lord Mackay" (2 November) contained the allegation that I had "proposed a tax on childless couples" in a Bow Group pamphlet.

This statement is untrue. I never proposed any such tax although, when my pamphlet was published, the *Independent* carried a story asserting it at the time. Apparently the journalist who wrote it had not seen any of the advance copies which I had sent to your paper and based the story on a mistake on the tapes. (There was no reference to childless couples in the pamphlet.)

As it is a matter of public record that my wife and I have had infertility treatment (declared as an interest in the embryology debate the year before the pamphlet was published), I would find it even more offensive than most people to victimise childless couples in this way.

I am, incidentally, an (unpaid) parliamentary adviser to the principal group that represents infertile couples in this country, (NIAC).

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER
MP for Canterbury (Con)
House of Commons
London, SW1
8 November

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Back issues of the *Independent* available from Historic Newspapers, Free phone 0800 906609.

Remembering two minutes of silence

From Mr Martin Pritchett

Sir: On Saturday my son and I tried to observe the two-minute silence ("A silent tribute to all fallen heroes", 11 November). We happened to be in Waitrose at the appointed hour and at 11am on the dot we stopped what we were doing, put down our wire basket and bowed our heads in silence.

Unfortunately, we were standing right in front of the sausage counter which was enjoying a burst of popularity. Comments from the assembled shoppers implied that we were loitering and had no business to be in the way. One elderly lady, who led the tutting chorus, then unceremoniously jostled us out of the way and made a spritely lunge for the pork chipolatas. All this in a town dominated by castle and barracks which paid scant regard to a two-minute interruption in its shopping habits.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PRITCHETT

Supermarket power

From Mr J. Fenner

Sir: Great stuff, Germaine ("Never glad confident Sainsbury's again", 10 November). It is time we all thought hard about automatically doing our shopping at Sainsbury's. Leave it to those who obviously regard a trolley trip there as the high-spot of family recreation, then maybe the great juggernaut of retailing will cease to destroy local shops, as it has in our part of north London.

Yours faithfully,
J. FENNER
London, N4

Yes, I agree with Enoch (except ...)

His racism should not obscure how right Enoch Powell has always been on Europe and the economy

I agree with most of what Enoch Powell says. As a matter of fact, I recently sat alongside him at a public meeting. And we are both members of the same political club.

Now there's a line that deserves an HE Bateman cartoon to itself – the man who said he agreed with Enoch Powell. So let me rephrase that first sentence quickly: I agree with everything Enoch Powell says, except what he says about race.

Now, the idea of Enoch Powell without racism may sound like the idea of Tony Benn without socialism. But that seems to me to be a profound misconception. Certainly, history will remember Powell principally for the fateful "rivers of blood" speech of 1968. Of all his many immolation scenes, this was the one that did his political career the most lasting damage, casting him as Mosley minus the black shirt.

Unfortunately, in the interview he gave for Michael Cockerell's documentary *Odd Man Out* (screened last Saturday on BBC2), Powell did little to dispel this impression. "What's wrong with racism?" he retorted. "Racism is the basis of nationality."

How on earth can any right-thinking person agree with someone who thinks like that? The answer is that it is perfectly easy, once you realise the relatively minor role this idea of race has played in Powell's development.

Let's begin with the things I do agree with. The political meeting at which I appeared alongside Powell

was in fact a meeting of the Bruges Group. I had been invited to talk about German attitudes towards European federalism. Powell spoke about his reasons for opposing the original legislation incorporating Britain into the EEC.

It was a remarkable speech; and I do not mean simply because of the way Powell delivered it – without notes, gazing over the heads of the audience into an invisible yonder, his frail, emaciated body rigid with concentration, his every sentence grammatically exquisite. No, what impressed me was simply how right he had been about the constitutional implications of the European Communities Act. There we all were, getting steamed up about the treaty of Maastricht. But, as Powell said, the fundamental diminution of the sovereignty of Parliament had happened two decades before. As a constitutional conservative, in other words, I am profoundly impressed by Powell's logic. The second element of Powell's political philosophy of which I am an unqualified admirer is his economic liberalism. It was over Macmillan's lax attitude to public expenditure that Powell resigned from the Treasury in 1958 (the first of his political immolation scenes). And throughout the Keynesian 1960s, Powell was one of the lone voices prophesying an inflationary crisis and calling for a new monetarism.

It is quite clear that these constitutional and economic ideas have got nothing whatever to do with race. So



NIALL FERGUSON

Throughout the Keynesian 1960s Powell prophesied an inflationary crisis

why the fateful belief in a racially defined national identity?

No one to my knowledge has ever satisfactorily explained this. Powell's own argument in defence of the "rivers of blood" speech remains that he had no alternative as an MP but to represent faithfully the views of his constituents, no matter what. I do not buy that. In fact we do not need to look far for clues as to the real roots of his racism. For example, when Powell appeared on *Desert Island Discs* in 1986, his choice of favourite records spoke volumes: every single one was a piece by Wagner. A similar clue lies in the romantic poetry that featured in the Cockerell profile.

"Crusty old Enoch is a romantic" trumpeted the papers after his on-

screen outburst of sentiment about Barbara Kennedy, the woman who rebuffed his advances nearly half a century ago. Yes, but what kind of romantic? The answer is that in very large measure he is a German romantic.

This may surprise even those who think they know their Powell. After all, did he not make up his mind early in the 1930s that war against Germany was inevitable? Did he not give up his chair at Sydney to fight against Germany? And was he not eager to die defending his country against Hitler?

True on every count. But none of that detracts from the fact that as a young man at Trinity in the 1930s, Powell had already imbibed, through his classical studies, a deep draught of Germanophilia. Not a love of Hitler's Germany, however, but a love of Nietzsche's Germany. There are fingerprints of Nietzsche all over in Powell's thinking – above all in his belief in a dichotomy between the intellectual and the emotional.

Ditto Wagner. To the untrained eye, there is something faintly absurd about Powell's unrequited passion for "B". But in the mind's eye of the inveterate Wagnerian he was Tristan, she Isolde.

And that brings us back to race. For if there was one idea that the German romantics latched on to, it was the idea of racially defined national character. How better to rationalise German ambitions for European hegemony? And how better to justify traditional

hostility to the most successful immigrants to Germany – the Jews?

Like Powell, I revere Wagner's music. But I detest his views on race, and will fight every attempt to introduce them to British conservatism. Powell's heresy – and I use the word deliberately – was to attempt just such an introduction.

Why do I regard a racial definition of national identity as heresy? One reason is scientific: modern geneticists will tell you that Darwin's theories do not apply (as German racists claimed they did) to the vaguely defined groups we call "races". My other reason is historic: not only the fact that such ideas were ultimately used by Hitler to justify the worst crimes in human history, but also the fact that British history so clearly runs counter to the idea of racially defined nationality. As an immigrant Celt I naturally have a strong vested interest in keeping England part of a flexible, multinational entity called the UK. But as I never tire of reminding my complacent English students, their little country would have achieved nothing in the world without immigrants.

On this single point then, I disagree with Enoch Powell. Indeed, I think his views on race contradict his constitutional conservatism and his economic liberalism. That makes me deeply wary of any attempt to canonise him by today's Conservative right. But it does not stop me admiring the man himself – immolation scenes and all.

A bit of PR unfit for PC

How to Write A Press Release – Lesson One: Writing a press release for Shell Oil.

Although we are naturally sorry to hear of the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa ...

Although we are naturally extremely sorry to hear of the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa ...

Although we are naturally extremely sorry to hear of the death of the late Ken Saro-Wiwa ...

Oh, dear.

This is not proving a very easy press release to get started, is it, Jack?

Know something, Jill? I think it's the word "although" that is making this sentence difficult to complete.

You mean, Jack, it makes it sound as if we are going on to say: "Although we are naturally extremely sorry to hear of the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa, we are very relieved to have him out of the way ..."

Yes, Jill, that is just what I mean. We are giving the impression that Ken Saro-Wiwa was a blundering old fool who was getting in the way of the legitimate operations of a well-meaning oil multinational.

Which is what he was, Jack.

Yes, Jill. But that is not the impression we want to give.

Why not?

Because it doesn't look good if we applaud the killing of people who stood in the way of our legitimate oil expansion.

Good Lord, no, I suppose it doesn't.

Not very good PR.

Absolutely. Phew, I'm glad you noticed that in time. So, how do you suggest starting this press release?

Well, for a start, I think we have to try to drop the word "tragic".

You don't think it's a tragic death, Jack?

I am not saying that. All I am saying is that it was the result of a perfectly legitimate trial carried out by the Nigerian government.

The very same Nigerian government who are so supportive of our oil operations ...

... Which are perfectly legitimate.

Exactly.

In the same way that the operations of the Nigerian government are legitimate.

Well, yes, perhaps. In any case, if we call the outcome of Saro-Wiwa's trial "tragic", the Nigerian government may say ...

May legitimately say ...

May legitimately say that we are not entitled to call the verdicts of their courts "tragic" and may be less well disposed to support our oil operations.

Our perfectly legitimate oil operations?

The very same.

The legitimate oil operations which are ruining the tribal heartlands of the Ogoni people?

This is no time for joking.

Jill. In any case, why does everyone keep calling them the tribal heartlands of the Ogoni people?

Because the Ogoni people have been there for hundreds of years, Jack.

Yes, but the oil has been there for thousands of years.

So, what you are trying to say is that ...

They may be heartlands, yes, but these are oil heartlands, not Ogoni heartlands.

Right! Meaning that they are our heartlands ...

And we have more right than the Ogonis to be there.

Absolutely. *Entire nous*, of course.

Right. That sort of statement isn't for PC.

PC?

Public consumption.

Right. So shall we have another stab at that opening sentence?

Shell Oil regrets exceedingly that the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa was caused directly by so many



MILES KINGSTON

For the Commonwealth, the Nigerian executions have changed everything, says Steve Crawshaw

After the outrage, the action

Auckland – Rarely has a country so brazenly defied the rest of the world. Even when compared with the old South Africa or Soviet Union, Nigeria's defiance of the world community, and of the Commonwealth in particular, has been in a class of its own. The execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others last week was not, in itself, unique. Plenty of regimes have, in recent years, carried out what John Major described as "judicial murder". But the timing of the Saro-Wiwa hangings made it plain that the military regime was deliberately, almost gleefully, seeking to provoke the Commonwealth.

First came the death sentences

Confirmation of the sentence was timed to send a blunt message to the summit leaders

themselves on Saro-Wiwa and the others, the week before the Auckland summit. Conceivably the timing of those sentences could still be regarded as coincidental. Then came the confirmation of the sentences. This followed direct appeals by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth and himself a former Nigerian foreign minister, and condemnation from around the world.

There could be no question that this confirmation was timed to send a blunt message to the summit leaders, who were already gathering in Auckland. "So, you don't like what we're doing? But what can you do about it? See how little we care about your useless appeals."

This thuggish response left the diplomats floundering. The protests remained muted, full of words like "dismay", with calls for "clemency". Simple outrage was not yet the order of the day.

This was partly because of a fear that too much tough talking might backfire. In addition, many countries – most notably, Britain and South Africa – genuinely seemed to believe that they still had time to deliberate. But, when Ken Wiwa, Saro-Wiwa's son, announced at Auckland on Friday afternoon that the execution squad had come to his father's jail, and had been turned away only because of a bureaucratic blip that could quickly be rectified, the previously energetic Mr Wiwa seemed to crumple, as though he knew that everything was over.

None the less, officials remained almost nonchalant, emphasising that



Commonwealth challenge: Ken Saro-Wiwa, the executed writer; his son Ken Wiwa at the Auckland conference, and Nelson Mandela, whose appeal for a reprieve was ignored. Photographs: Reuters/AP

there would be time enough, at the weekend, to discuss what to do next. They were thus not just shocked, but humiliated by the news – which broke a couple of hours before they flew off next morning to their luxury, leisured retreat – that Saro-Wiwa had indeed been executed overnight, New Zealand time. When, on Saturday morning, President Mandela emerged from his hotel to deliver a brief statement, he insisted: "I think I handled it correctly. I have no regrets at all." But his weary, almost plaintive tone, as a small group of us battered him with questions, seemed to tell a different story. For a moment, as he stood on the hotel steps, the self-confident, kingly Mandela seemed to have vanished.

If there is a positive spin-off from the events of the past few days – and it is still a large if – it could be the new-found determination of the Commonwealth not to allow this to happen again.

If Saro-Wiwa were still alive today, the Commonwealth's weekend dis-

cussion of how to punish "errant states" (to use the local buzzword) would have been much more hesitant and confused. While Saro-Wiwa was still alive, the argument that badly behaved countries might be provoked into being even worse behaved still carried weight with many delegates. Others were wary of creating a framework in which Nigeria could be punished – rightly fearing that they, too, might be vulnerable to reproach.

But the executions changed everything. Suddenly, there was nothing more to lose. There were no longer "hostages", to quote one Commonwealth official's word. And there was offended dignity to be recovered.

In his opening speech on Friday, Chief Anyaoku had described the Harare declaration of 1991, which emphasised the importance of democracy and human rights, as "our guiding compass". That declaration now seemed genuinely relevant.

Thus Commonwealth leaders were spurred into quickly agreeing yesterday's guide on How to Kick Non-

Democrats into Line – which provides for what officials describe as "a ladder of measures", up to and including possible economic sanctions and expulsion.

On Saturday's decision to suspend Nigeria from the Commonwealth, there was just one dissenting vote – from Gambia, which itself has a military regime. The other countries' ambivalence about relying on the "guiding compass" was suddenly gone.

These events mark an extraordinary change in the nature of the Commonwealth. It used to be an organisation in which democracy almost happily cohabited with dictatorship. South Africa-bashing was an easy pastime, which everybody could safely indulge in. What member states did to their own political opponents was judged to be nobody else's business. It was impolite to comment, let alone take action.

Now, that has changed – and Nigeria, until now one of the most important countries in the Commonwealth,

will be a crucial test case for how the new-style Commonwealth will operate.

Last week, critics within the Commonwealth were still arguing that by putting so much emphasis on human rights – at the expense of development issues – the Commonwealth had allowed the rich North to hijack the agenda from the impoverished South. Chief Anyaoku fiercely rejects that accusation. He has repeatedly argued that "democracy and development are two sides of the same coin". In addition, he emphasises that issues such as debt relief, development and education policy remain at the heart of the Commonwealth's concerns.

Failure to act boldly can be lethal for those the Commonwealth fails to defend

The Commonwealth has continued to expand: South Africa rejoined last year, Cameroon joined this month, and Mozambique's application will officially be approved today.

But those optimistic signals for the organisation's future remain ambiguous even now. The death of Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues showed that the organisation's failure to act boldly can be lethal for those whom the Commonwealth fails to defend. In the longer term, the failures could be lethal for the Commonwealth itself. The organisation's effectiveness will be judged on how the measures agreed yesterday are enforced in practice. Certainly there is no shortage of abuses of human rights, even now. It is worth noting, too, that the question of sanctions – in other words, a measure that would hurt the punishers, not just the punished – has scarcely been raised.

If yesterday's agreement can be made to work, then the Commonwealth could still be far from irrelevant. Equally, Britain's loss of importance within the Commonwealth is not necessarily a reason to suggest, as some critics have begun to do, that the Commonwealth is now outdated, or that Britain itself should leave.

Chief Anyaoku declared shortly before last week's executions: "No country can afford to live in isolation from the rest of the world." The Commonwealth now has the chance to show, by making its threats and its actions against Nigeria's military rulers consistent with its rhetoric, that it can make that statement true.

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

Generation Why



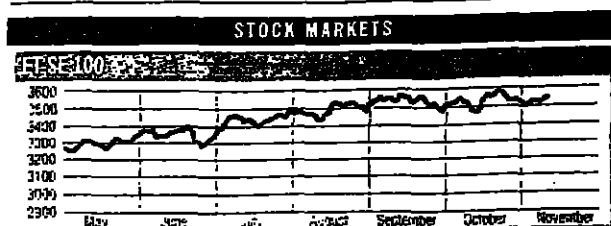
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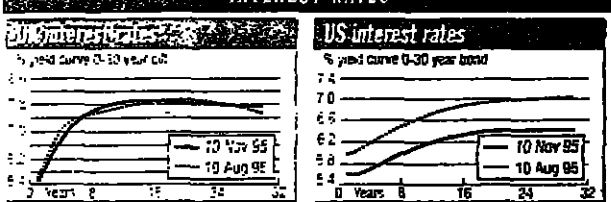


Index	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	12 Mo High	12 Mo Low	Holdings
FTSE 100	2,513.4	-21.0	-0.7	2,953.0	2,213.4	4.0
FTSE 250	2,904.3	-28.8	-0.9	3,391.3	2,391.3	3.9
FTSE 350	1,754.5	-11.8	-0.7	1,989.3	1,472.0	3.8
FT Small Cap	1,532.2	-8.5	-0.5	1,781.1	1,278.6	3.4
FT All Share	1,482.4	-14.8	-0.9	1,781.1	1,482.4	2.9
FTSE 100	1,745.2	-58.2	-3.3	1,973.0	1,448.4	0.8
FTSE 250	2,411.5	-27.9	-1.1	2,822.9	2,097.9	3.2
FTSE 350	1,532.2	-8.5	-0.5	1,781.1	1,278.6	3.4
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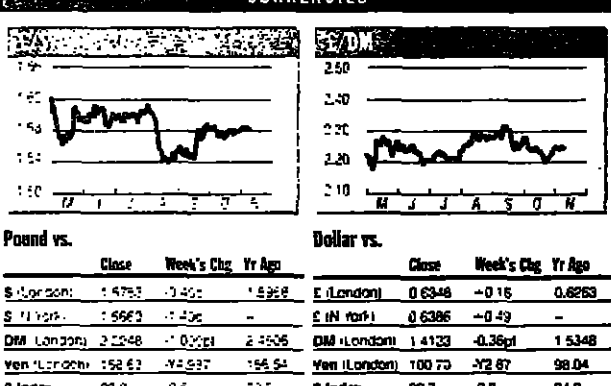
MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises - Top 5	Price (p)	Week's Change (p)	% Change	Falls - Top 5	Price (p)	Week's Change (p)	% Change
Deccor	633	10	1.6	Unilever	125.5	-22.5	-18.5
Barton	111.5	1.5	1.4	Gap	210	-24	-10.9
3i Water	1244	11	0.9	Smith	105	-28	-9.9
Unilever	1156	12	1.0	Amersham	166	-32	-9.7
3i	572	5	0.9	Clor	138	-19	-7.4

INTEREST RATES



CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Week's chg	Year Ago	Index	Latest	Year Ago	Unit
C4 Brent	15.95	-0.05	RPI	150.6	139.9	2.4
Gold	389.85	-36.35	GDP	106.6	2.4pp	4.1
Gold	389.85	-36.35	Base Rates	6.75p	8.25p	-

IN BRIEF

Caradon director in line for pay-off

Daniel Cohen, who is to step down as a director of the Caradon building products group, could be in line for a pay-off of up to £750,000. The Alpine double glazing to Twyford bathroom group confirmed his impending departure yesterday, alongside a new management structure which will see the seven business divisions reporting directly to the chief executive, Peter Jansen, in future. Caradon has also appointed headhunters to seek a candidate to occupy a new post of chief operating officer. Mr Cohen's basic salary was just over £250,000 last year and he is thought to be on a three-year contract like other directors. However, it is likely that his compensation for loss of office will be lower than his contract would imply.

Lloyd Webber 'ready to spend £100m'

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the millionaire composer, is said to be ready to invest up to £100m in a bid for the newspaper interests of United News & Media, including the *Daily Express*. Mr Lloyd Webber was quoted over the weekend as suggesting the principle of running newspapers was the same as for musicals. He is believed to be looking for partners to share costs.

Airbus vies for \$5bn Singapore order

The European aircraft consortium Airbus Industrie is this week expected to be vying with Boeing of the US for an order from Singapore Airlines worth at least \$5bn, according to industry sources. The result of the tender for at least 33 new medium-sized, medium-range passenger aircraft for Asian routes, is to be announced tomorrow. Unlike previous orders, Singapore is thought likely to appoint a sole supplier, rather than splitting it between different aircraft makers.

Fund managers expect Labour to win

An overwhelming number of fund managers believe Labour will win the next general election. Ninety-five per cent of respondents to the latest Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey say the party will win the largest number of seats. But although they remain optimistic about prospects for UK equities three months and one year out, fund managers are not enthusiastic about increasing their exposure to the UK market. A mere 1 per cent balance want to raise UK equity holdings compared with 32 per cent ready to increase their investment in the Pacific Basin. Hong Kong is the most favoured.

PowerGen looks at Philippines project

PowerGen, the electricity generation group, is said to be interested in building a 300-megawatt coal-fired plant in the Philippines with Chinese contractor Shanghai Electric Corporation. Officials from Manila Electric Company said over the weekend that PowerGen was considering the technical and financial aspects of the \$335m project.

Newsagents keep up monopoly protest

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents is to continue with its campaign to have the newspaper wholesaling industry referred to the Office of Fair Trading. At a meeting with the wholesalers today to be chaired by Edward Leigh, the former trade minister, the newsagents' trade body will argue that proposals by WH Smith and John Menzies to redistribute their wholesaling interests will increase their monopoly control of the business.

BT 'faces big job cuts'

British Telecom will have to cut over 100,000 jobs if it goes ahead with a proposed fibre-optic information superhighway deal with Labour, a City analyst has claimed. According to a weekend press report, James Dodd of Kleinwort Benson Securities has suggested the reduction, amounting to around three-quarters of the current workforce, would come as a result of the lower maintenance costs with fibre-optic cable.

Salomon blow to Stock Exchange

JOHN EISENHAMMER
Financial Editor

The Stock Exchange is to suffer another blow this week when Salomon Brothers, a leading US investment bank, announces it is abandoning London for trading European equities.

Similar decisions are also said to be imminent from several other big international houses, including Lehman Brothers, providing final confirmation that the challenge by Seag International, the Exchange's trading facility, to the likes of Frankfurt, Paris, and Milan is over.

"Seag International is dead."

This is the beginning of the exit stampede," said the head of market making at a big London firm. The Exchange has already been stung by criticism that it has not kept up with market developments. Rudolph Mueller, chairman of UBS UK, recently accused the exchange of failing to take the lead in forging cooperative arrangements with continental exchanges.

"The London exchange are the Luddites of the stock markets. Having dominated 10 years ago, they are now among the most inefficient, on a par with Greece and Poland, when it comes to price fixing and transacting business," said the

head of equities at a leading international investment bank.

An important catalyst is the beginning of "remote trading" across the European Union. An investment bank authorised to trade in one member state will be able to apply for membership on other European exchanges without having a physical presence there. This was an important consideration behind NatWest Markets' decision late last month to delist from nearly all continental share trading on Seag International.

Investment bankers stressed that the eroding power of the Stock Exchange would have little effect on London as the

pre-eminent European financial centre. "The truth is that London-based investment banks remain the centre of cross-border equity business, and the fact that they do not transact it on Seag International in no way diminishes the importance of London," said a senior banker. Seag International was set up in the mid-eighties, when inefficient European exchanges were unable to handle the flow of cross-border investment. London rapidly became the centre for trading European shares, but the continental bourses fought back with modernisation. While London stuck to its quote-driven system, dom-

inated by the powerful market-making firms, the European exchange was updated with automated, order-driven trading systems, preferred by most international investment banks. "The LSE should have moved to an order-driven system in the late eighties. Instead, it was cowed by its City establishment members and has lost out," said a head of equities trading. "The London exchange used to argue that the success of Seag International proved the superiority of quote-driven trading. Its passing away may be a precursor of changes to the way domestic equity is traded," noted a chief market maker.

The fact that three bastions of the old, British market-making establishment have been taken over by foreign firms is shifting the balance in the trading system debate. SBC Warburg has ceased trading German equities in London. Both Merrill Lynch, owner of Smith New Court, and Kleinwort Benson, bought by Dresdner Bank, are urgently reviewing their options. "As far as European stocks go, Seag International is no more than an advertising bulletin. Its role is now in emerging markets, helping trade Turkish, Indian stocks and the like," said a head of market making.

CBI conference: Politicians fight it out for the hearts and minds of business leaders in Birmingham

Blair faces a cold shoulder from industry

PETER RODGERS
MARY FAGAN
and JOHN RENTOU

Business leaders yesterday rejected Tony Blair's overtures for a partnership between industry and the Labour Party and said contacts between the two were merely a dialogue.

Mr Blair is this morning to step up his drive to win over industry to Labour's new policies in a keynote speech at the Confederation of British Industry conference in Birmingham, where he will praise the benefits of an enterprise economy. But against a background of growing concern among senior industrialists and Tory cabinet ministers that the CBI has been aligning itself too closely with Labour, Sir Bryan Nicholson, president of the employers' organisation, said: "It is equally important that we listen to the Government in power as to precisely which lines of policy they are going to continue to propagate, because after all they hold the levers of power."

The central thrust of Mr Blair's address is expected to be that Britain should become a "nation of entrepreneurs". He will take issue with John Major's Blackpool conference ambition for Britain to become the "enterprise centre of Europe", describing this as "a fantasy unless and until we become the knowledge capital of Europe". Mr Blair will emphasise the change in the Labour Party since John Smith addressed the CBI in 1993, and stress its conversion to "the enterprise of the market and the rigour of competition", enshrined in the party's new constitution.

Mr Blair's speech will set out Labour's economic policy across a broad front, with education and skills at the core. Labour's stance on training became clearer last week as the 1992 policy of a levy on companies that did not spend enough on training was finally dropped, to be replaced with a

plan for individual "learning accounts", to which employees, companies and the taxpayer would contribute.

Sir Bryan said that with the Labour Party "you are not talking about a partnership, you are talking about a dialogue". The question CBI members most frequently asked him was: "Are you making certain that in the event there is going to be a Labour administration you have been talking to them properly and putting our views across?" Distancing himself from the view among some that Labour is the government in waiting he added: "With 18 months to go, I think members reckon that anything could happen."

Adair Turner, CBI director general, welcomed the "apparent shift in the overall tone of Labour's approach to business" but he called on Labour to clarify its policy in a number of areas, including personal taxation, and in particular to confirm the party has "truly rejected the politics of envy" on top marginal rates of taxation.

He also resurrected the deep-seated disagreement between business and Labour on the minimum wage and on the party's policy of dropping the opt-out on the European social chapter.

With reports last week that the Government had £5bn of tax cuts in its sights, the CBI warned that its members were vociferously opposed to tax cuts above £3bn. A survey of members on Budget priorities said only 5 per cent favoured tax cuts above £3bn. Education was first or second priority for 79 per cent. Sir Bryan said: "We are very anxious the gains achieved aren't put at risk in the Budget for political reasons."

The CBI was opposed to tax cuts that did not match up to economic fundamentals, Mr Turner said. "The thing we do not want to see is cuts in the education and training part of public expenditure. It is an essential, not a luxury."



CBI president Bryan Nicholson (left) and director general Adair Turner afloat in Birmingham yesterday Photograph: Reuters

Redwood forces Europe debate

MARY FAGAN
and PETER RODGERS

John Redwood, the former cabinet minister, will thrust the row over Europe back onto centre stage at the CBI conference by staging a last-minute fringe meeting at lunchtime today.

Mr Redwood's debate will come immediately after the official CBI debate on Europe and is in danger of stealing the limelight from Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, who is scheduled to speak later in the day.

Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, denied that the organisation had been embarrassed by Mr Redwood's intervention. He said CBI policies reflected solid majorities of opinion among members but added that on issues such as European monetary union they had called for a "rational fact-based debate".

He said the issue had not been debated in an open and rational fashion in the past and the

fringe meeting was "thoroughly to be welcomed". A CBI survey last week showed most members do not want to close the door on monetary union.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, acknowledged the existence of an Euro-sceptic movement in the CBI but he himself could not attend Mr Redwood's forum. "I am busy at the main meeting."

He said there were disenchanted minorities within the CBI because it was a diverse organisation. CBI officials said with no official lunchtime speaker, Mr Redwood had turned his intervention well.

Mr Redwood's fringe meeting contrasts starkly with the official flavour of the morning debate, which features enthusiastic pro-European businessmen such as Niall Fitzgerald, a vice chairman of the Anglo-Dutch giant Unilever and Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, as well as Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission.

Lang vows progress on competition law

Ian Lang, president of the Board of Trade, yesterday promised that his department would find new ways round blockages that have prevented a long-awaited reform of competition policy, writes Peter Rodgers.

In 1993, the Government said it would give new and tougher powers to the Office of Fair Trading to investigate and ban restrictive practices. But the DTI has been unable to secure parliamentary time to introduce the legislation and there is no sign of it appearing in the Queen's Speech this week.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Mr Lang admitted that "Legislation needs the agreement of all colleagues, space in the programme and time in Parliament - not all of those can necessarily be taken for granted."

But he said he had new ideas about how to get round this obstacle, which might include using private members' bills, inserting changes to competition law in other bills proceeding through Parliament or - in some areas - avoiding primary legislation altogether.

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section two



New broom sweeps Hambros

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Heads are expected to roll at Hambros, the merchant bank, as it grapples with a slump in interim profits to be announced on Wednesday. Some of the old guard are likely to be moved aside after the expected appointment of Sir Chiye Keswick, deputy chairman, to a newly created position of chief executive, with younger executives being given more senior positions in the bank.

The retirement of John Heywood, head of treasury and de-

rivatives, will be announced, although Hambros is likely to stress this has no connection with the changes. The reshuffle will come as Hambros reveals that profits have slid from £21.5m in the first half of 1994. The group could even report losses, after being hit by restructuring charges expected to be around £10m, the fall-out from the Baring's collapse and a half-way deficit of £5.82m in the estate agency subsidiary, Hambro Countrywide.

The extent of the restructuring may disappoint shareholders,

who have seen the shares tumble from 458p in early 1994 to 195p on Friday. Hambros has already decided to get out of equities, closing an Australian broking business and halting further growth in South Africa, but further cut-backs in the bank's disparate range of businesses are thought unlikely.

The 50 per cent stake in Hambro Countrywide, which has racked up close to £100m trading losses in the past five-and-a-half years, and in Hambro Insurance Services, are likely to be retained. Instead, the



GAVIN DAVIES

The financial markets cannot be duped. A reckless economic strategy will simply result in a financial crisis before the election.

Tax cuts a risk Tories cannot afford to take

The Deputy Prime Minister has apparently been impressed by confidential evidence linking the electoral performance of governments to the growth in real consumers' expenditure in the 12 months before a general election. Hardly a revelation, one is tempted to say. But it is striking how eager politicians and commentators are to devour new "relationships" between economic variables and political behaviour. Real disposable income, base rates, consumer confidence, inflation, unemployment, the balance of payments – all have been made the central economic variable in explaining voter preferences according to statistical studies in the past 20 years.

Many of these studies unfortunately rest on shaky foundations. I remain persuaded by a "kosher" econometric study conducted a few years ago by David Walton of Goldman Sachs. This showed that once allowance had been made for the electoral cycle – the regular collapse in government support in the mid-term protest season, followed by a sharp pre-election recovery – there was almost no systematic role left for economic variables in explaining government support. Obviously, this is not to deny the general importance of the economy on politics. It is just to deny that its influence is simple or stable enough to be precisely measured. Moods matter, not maths.

Instead of trying to measure the unmeasurable, the Government should worry about devising a clear strategy to maximise its electoral chances. I have been asking acquaintances in the Tory Party what they believe the central electoral strategy is, or should be, for the next 18 months. This tends to elicit blank stares. Either they think the game is already over, or they see no alternative to just plunging ahead and hoping something turns up.

No doubt the Prime Minister and Chancellor are more focused than this. It seems to me that there are three basic strategies they could follow in the remainder of their

term. Let us call them the good government strategy, the tax cut strategy and the base rate strategy. They are not wholly exclusive of each other but they do represent three distinct paths, and the Budget will essentially tell us which the Government has chosen.

The case for the good government strategy is the following: The electorate is a more sophisticated animal than is generally assumed. Voters will not be impressed by a crude pre-election bribe they expect will be reversed immediately after polling day. Furthermore, the financial markets cannot be duped. A reckless economic strategy will simply result in a financial crisis before the election, and this time it will not be credible to blame a collapse on the markets' fear of the opposition. Instead, it will be seen as the final judgement on, and rejection of, Tory policy.

Also, the economic outlook on the good government ticket is not too bad, so maybe nothing much need be changed. The Bank of England's Inflation Report last week pointed out that real earnings for those in work have barely risen during the present economic recovery (see graph), but that the full impact

of three years of rising taxes has now been felt. In the next 18 months, real disposable income should rise much faster, and in addition there will be a series of "windfall gains" for the consumer.

These gains will together amount to an incredible £14.3bn, or 3 per cent of disposable income. Since the vast majority of this will come from the proceeds of mergers in the financial services industry, it is not clear how much of the credit will accrue to the Government. But it can scarcely fail to put the electorate in a better mood, and is certain to boost consumers' expenditure in the election run-up.

Nevertheless, it has not been enough to persuade the right of the Tory Party that there is no need for tax cuts before the election. Snatching back the tax card from Labour is, for them, the key to winning the election.

Of course, sizeable tax cuts can be made compatible with the good government ticket if they are genuinely financed from cuts in public spending, with no addition to the Budget deficit. That seems to be what the

right of the party wants. They have increasingly demanded large tax cuts almost regardless of the consequences for the public services. And, surprisingly, we have heard barely a squeak from the centre/left of the party, which must surely have some misgivings about the damage to the public services that might be done in the reckless pursuit of tax cuts next year.

The Chancellor and Prime Minister have swung entirely behind the right on this question. If we are to believe press stories last week, the Budget could contain around £5bn of tax cuts, with around £3bn of this being financed by expenditure "cuts". This would involve a 1 per cent drop in real public spending next year, a wholly unprecedented outcome in a pre-election year. Pay bills in the public services would be frozen for another year, capital spending would be slashed in the rather forlorn hope that projects would be financed by the private finance initiative instead, and Whitehall procurement costs would be reduced by some 5 per cent.

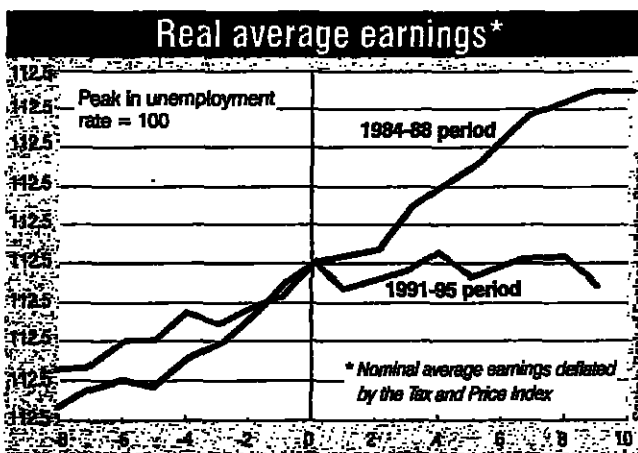
No doubt this would make the Chancellor a hero with his party on Budget day. But would

such a Budget be compatible with the good government ticket? I rather doubt it, for two reasons. First, there comes a stage where public spending cuts become too large to be plausible, or where they start to do too much damage to the public infrastructure to be worthwhile. This stage may now have been reached. Certainly, large cuts in capital spending next year, with the construction industry in its present parlous state, would be quite straightforwardly the wrong thing to do.

Second, this Budget package would leave the public sector borrowing requirement worryingly high, probably at around £20-22bn (3 per cent of GDP) next year. This would be about £8bn higher than planned last year, even if the spending targets were hit. In the much more likely case that spending overshoots its target, the PSBR really would be much too high for this stage of the economic cycle.

It is mainly because of concerns about the PSBR that it would be better to deviate from the straight and narrow by cutting base rates, rather than taking risks with tax cuts – in other words, following the third possible strategy. But the received wisdom in the Tory Party is that this would not be an unmitigated blessing, since many of their own activists rely on interest receipts for a large part of their income. In addition, it is thought that Bank of England Governor Eddie George bars the path to sizeable base rate cuts. Anyway, for whatever reason, the political pressure for tax cuts is currently much, much stronger than the pressure for lower base rates.

Until now, the Chancellor has carried conviction when he has argued that the best chance of winning the election is to stick with the good government ticket. But he may now be veering towards the tax cut option, financed by huge but ultimately implausible "cuts" in public spending. The eventual loser would be the health of the public finances. Let us hope Mr. Clarke proves these fears unfounded on Budget day.



Date effective	Event	Estimated size of increase	% of income
1995 H2	Lloyds Bank joining with Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society	1.8	0.4%
1995 H2	Lloyds Bank merger with TSB	1.0	0.2%
1996 H1	Regional electricity company rebates	1.1	0.2%
1996 H1	Abbey National take-over of National and Provincial Building Society	1.4	0.3%
1997 H1	Halifax Building Society merger with Leeds Permanent Building Society and conversion to plc status	9.0	1.9%

* At current prices ** Annual personal disposable income in 1994 Source: Bank of England Inflation Report

Spinning wheels in a Wild West

A year ago, the British construction company MacRae International began work on a 1,200-house residential estate on the outskirts of the Albanian capital, Tirana. The company had signed a contract with the government. It even had buyers lined up for its solid timber-frame houses.

Sounds watertight enough, right? Wrong. Albania may be one of Europe's fastest-growing economies, but it was also its wildest, and in one fell swoop everything went to hell.

Because of the government's land privatisation programme, MacRae suddenly found that instead of one business partner – the state – it was dealing with several hundred private landowners. Several months and \$700,000 (£450,000) of wasted investment later, the project came to a grinding halt.

"I'm discovering I have something in common with George Soros," joked MacRae's stoical director for Albania, Martin Stent. "I now have a bunch of foundations to my name."

Four years after the collapse of one of the world's most repressive communist regimes, Albania is still a Wild West for the investor. The opportunities are undeniable – rich resources in minerals and oil, a stunningly beautiful and totally unspoilt coastline ripe for tourism,

cheap labour, and above all a consumer-crazy population itching to earn and spend after nearly half a century spent cut off from the outside world.

But the challenges are also daunting. Laws on such basic issues as land ownership either do not exist or are not respected. There are no private banks and credit is effectively non-existent. There are no more than five miles of decent road in the whole country; telephones are scarce; electricity has a habit of cutting out, especially in winter; water is unsafe to drink and available for only a few hours a day, and so on.

Ask any Albanian how to make investments work, and you will be told the real trick is not signing contracts but knowing which public official to pay off. Although denied by the ruling Democratic Party, corruption is a big political issue.

Thus it is that just 3,000 houses have been built with official consent by the national housing agency, but another 42,000 have sprung up illegally. The construction companies involved almost certainly circumvented the bureaucracy by coming to a private agreement with a senior civil servant. Likewise, the boulevards of

central Tirana are lined with technically illegal cafes and small shops. You can be sure someone in some ministry is doing very well out of them.

"Privatisation has turned into a racket, and the government is raking off the benefits," said Prec Zogaj, a political commentator and member of the centrist Social Democrat party. "Why aren't the banks privatised, for example? Because a private bank can't be relied on to do favours for the government's friends."

Some foreign companies fare remarkably well. Coca Cola, which has built a \$9.5m bottling plant outside Tirana – while others have been blown away. One Italian firm that signed a contract in the first few months of democracy in Albania found its plans for an agribusiness venture blocked after the Democratic Party came to power. Company chiefs returned to Italy \$5m out of pocket.

Foreign investment has kept on coming – around \$200m is believed to be committed to projects in Albania – but the unstable and unpredictable conditions have created an uneven, almost surreal, kind of economic development.

You can't drink the water out

of the taps, but Italian mineral water is available everywhere. Albanian buildings are crumbling visibly, but covered in state-of-the-art television satellite dishes. The roads are packed with Mercedes and BMWs, many stolen in Italy or Greece, but they face a non-stop obstacle course of potholes, puddles and stray rocks.

Government priorities are often more about prestige than practicality. The health ministry recently ordered its third and fourth helicopters for emergency medical rescues, but hospitals still face hygiene problems and supply of basic medicines. Siemens has won a \$30m contract to modernise the airport, though basic improvements could probably have been carried out for one-third of the price.

"One mistake the Albanians make is to assume all foreigners are filthy rich, and try to rip them off," said Mr Stent. "One mistake foreigners make is to think they can impose their standards in such an environment."

"We need to make life easier for foreign investors," said Ilir Meta of the opposition Socialist Party. But he conceded in endearingly disappointed English, "it is difficult to have a 'soon' perspective."

ANDREW GUMBEL



Appropriate technology: There are only five miles of car-worthy road in all of Albania Photograph: Reuters

Treasury seeks bigger picture

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

The Treasury and Bank of England are eager to develop new monthly statistics on Britain's services industries in order to get a better picture of the economy for policy purposes.

Although services are more difficult to monitor than manufacturing, economists at both the Bank and Treasury think the existing monthly statistics make commentators focus too much on manufacturing.

Manufacturing accounts for less than a quarter of GNP compared to services' weight of almost two-thirds. Services output rose by 3.2 per cent in the year to the third quarter, compared to a 1.2 per cent rise in manufacturing output. But the weaker monthly manufacturing figures have set in motion a bandwagon in favour of interest rate cuts.

Speaking about the recent Inflation Report, Bank of England chief economist Mervyn King said: "We shall be doing what we can to look at the service sector monthly rather than quarterly." The report said one uncertainty about the inflation outlook was the strength of demand, and whether the cur-

rent slowdown was temporary.

Mr King said the sector of the economy best documented by monthly statistics happened to be the weakest. The divergence between weak manufacturing and strong services opened up in the fourth quarter of last year.

The growth in services during this recovery has been somewhat higher than those in the 1970s and 80s. One of the fastest-growing compared to previous recoveries has been transport and communications – up 5.4 per cent in the year to the second quarter – thanks to rapid expansion in telecommunications.

Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, is also known to be interested in developing better information about the service sector, which encompasses important businesses and big overseas earners ranging from financial services and consultancy to music.

A Treasury spokesman said: "There is a certain amount of interest here in seeing this work progress. It is important to get a broader view."

The government's statisticians began work on improving services data 18 months ago. They do not have a firm timetable for completing it.

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sport

Demonstration of waif power

Mike Rowbottom sees a Russian gymnastics revival in the junior women's European Cup semi-final

The Guildford Spectrum leisure centre witnessed something special on Saturday night: the hundred or so people present registered appreciation by raising their level of applause from polite to warm. Eight months hence in the Atlanta Georgia Dome the response is likely to be tumultuous.

In the tiny, powerful figures of Elena Produnova and Eugenia Kuznetsova, Russia have two gymnasts capable of energising the Olympics in the way their compatriots Olga Korbut and Lyudmila Tourischeva did in 1972. At 15, both have appeared in the senior World Championships, and their outstanding performances in helping Russia win the semi-final of the European Cup for junior (12-15) women's teams strengthened their claims to Olympic places next year.

Kuznetsova, winner of the Youth Olympics in Bath last summer, is pale and impassive, her eyes watchful. Produnova is a darker, less girlish figure whose artistry and expression prompt the sport's purists to reminisce over the days when gymnastics events were won by women rather than waifs.

Some of the movements produced by the latter prompted intakes of breath even among experienced observers of the sport. "Produnova is spectacular," said Vera Atkinson, who as Vera Marinova competed in several rhythmic gymnastics World Championships for Bulgaria, and who has worked as a television commentator for 20 years.

The feelings of the British team, who finished third behind Russia and Germany, were summed up by Melissa Wilcox, a tiny 12-year-old from Bristol making her first major international appearance. "The Russians were... impressive," she said with a rueful grin.

There is little doubt in the mind of the Russian coach, Alexandre Kirjashov, that this pair will be among the six selected for the Atlanta team. "What gives them the best chance is their strong programme," he said. "They are good at all the disciplines."

There was a curious sense of informality to the proceedings, which took place in a small hall beside a main ice arena upon which hundreds of teenagers glided beneath disco lights. The gymnastics crowd numbered many friends and relatives of those taking part, a good proportion of whom were busy themselves with the sacred duty of recording the action on video.

Despite the intimacy of the event, however, there was no questioning that the gymnasts were keyed up. The slump of Kuznetsova's shoulders after she dismounted from a beam exercise which had been marred by a wobble, and the way her teammates pattered in to comfort her, said everything about that. Like all their generation, Kuznetsova and Produnova have had to accommodate to a climate of competition which lays huge store by technical virtuosity, towards which codes of marking have shifted steadily for the last 15 years.

Had the Korbut of 1972 been precipitated into Saturday's competition, Atkinson estimates, she would have had difficulty making the top 10.

The dominance of the waifs has raised inevitable suggestions that some competitors are having puberty delayed by illegal chemical means - allegations that are strongly denied.

What is certain is that the Russians carry out a gigantic scouting mission among their gigantic population, spotting potential champions in schools and kindergartens. Parents are assessed to help determine how the youngsters will turn out physically.

Once the likely candidates have been identified, however, there is no rush towards punishing routines. "For the first two years we don't push them to do difficult things," Kirjashov said. "The important thing is that they must love gymnastics for itself."

But this operation has taken place in recent years against a background of social and economic disruption. "It has been very difficult for us to maintain our standards," Kirjashov added. "For example, the economic problems in Russia have forced the closure of 800 gymnasia. Now, though, I think we are on the point of rebuilding."

And Produnova and Kuznetsova, along with their elder compatriot Svetlana Chorkina, the world silver medalist, are the new cornerstones. The discipline required to reach world level at this sport makes hugely adult demands upon competitors; and yet their necessarily blinkered lifestyle can have the effect of making them particularly naive. The furry toys and mascots ranged alongside the national kitbags at the side of the exercise area on Saturday said much about the dichotomy.

With such pressures involved, one might expect there to be a succession of "burn-outs" in the sport to match the departures from tennis of such as Andreja Jaeger and Jennifer Capriati. But it seems that by the time the top level is reached in gymnastics any potential drop-outs have already dropped. "These girls," said Atkinson, gesturing to the whirling Russians, "follow their dream as far as they can."

All the way to Atlanta.



Head over heels: Russia's Julia Korostelova impresses in the beam exercises

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Hakkinen recovering well from accident

Motor racing

Mika Hakkinen, the McLaren Mercedes driver who crashed at more than 100mph during qualifying for the Australian Grand Prix, is making a steady recovery from the serious head injuries he suffered on Friday.

A statement issued yesterday by Professor Syd Watkins, of the sport's governing body, the FIA, and Dr Brendon Kearney, chief executive of the Royal Adelaide hospital, said: "There has been further significant improvement in Hakkinen's condition."

The statement said that Hakkinen was likely to be released from the hospital's intensive care unit within 24 hours, but he will need further treatment while he is recovering. He is expected to remain at the hospital for up to two weeks.

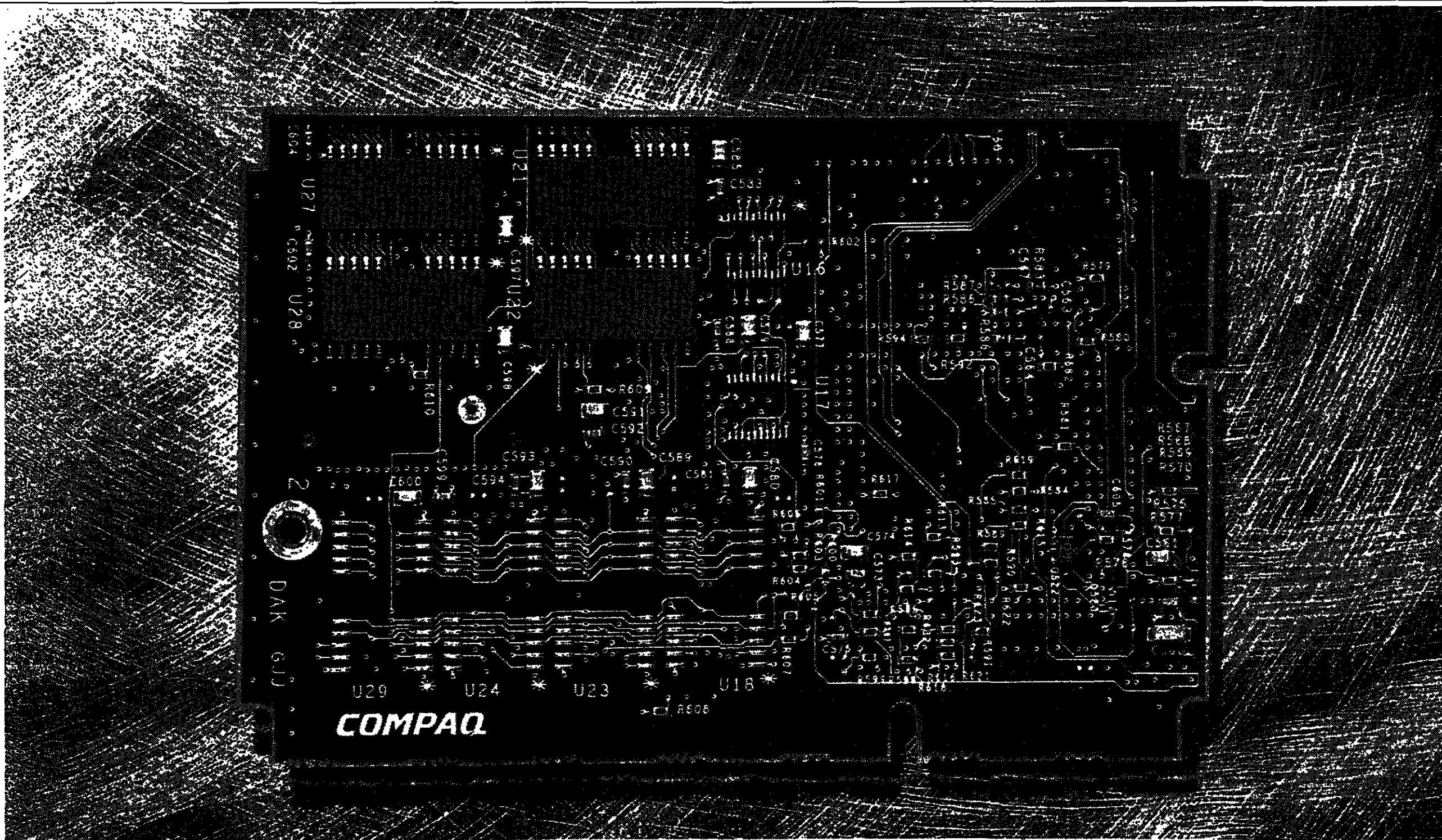
There were fears for Hakkinen's life when he crashed at 13 minutes of the first qualifying session. He was unconscious for almost 24 hours, but was sitting up and talking on Saturday afternoon.

Ron Dennis, the McLaren Mercedes managing director, said the team's spirits had been lifted by news of Hakkinen's recovery. "The best news of the day for all of us is Mika's ever-improving condition," he said.

Dennis confirmed that he believed a tyre failure was the major contributing factor to the accident. He said: "There is absolutely no doubt that the left-hand rear tyre suffered a rapid deflation, as the result of a cut which was almost certainly caused by Mika running over some track debris."

Hakkinen's team-mate, Mark Blundell, finished fourth in the race but said he was more concerned about the Finn's welfare. "The team's thoughts go to the big improvement in Mika's condition, and I am very happy about that," Blundell said.

The Adelaide track is regarded as one of the safest on the Formula One circuit, but officials added extra tyre barriers before the race, which was notable for a series of accidents.



The favourite circuit of the Benetton Formula One team

To the Mild Seven Benetton Renault Formula One Racing Team, life without Compaq computers is as unthinkable as life without spanners.

These days, Formula One isn't just about driving fast. It's also about harnessing the latest technology to coax the maximum performance possible from the car.

To this end, each Benetton Formula One car has

32 sensors fitted around the chassis, and control units attached to the engine and gearbox. These allow Compaq computers to capture almost every conceivable piece of performance data, and allow the team to fine tune accordingly.

In fact, you name it, Benetton's Compaqs can do it. From logging and sorting the 17 Megabits of data that

stream out of the car every second, to instantly diagnosing and rectifying faults, mid-race.

For the record, Benetton use Compaq LTE notebooks and ProLiant servers. Also for the record, Benetton won the 1995

Formula One Constructor's Championship.

COMPAQ

TECHNOLOGY GONE SANI

2011/11/13

sport

Price is right for small-town giants



GLENN MOORE
COMMENTARY

It did not need the FA Cup to bring a touch of magic to the Forest of Dean. Local lore has it that the ancient forest has been bewitched for centuries.

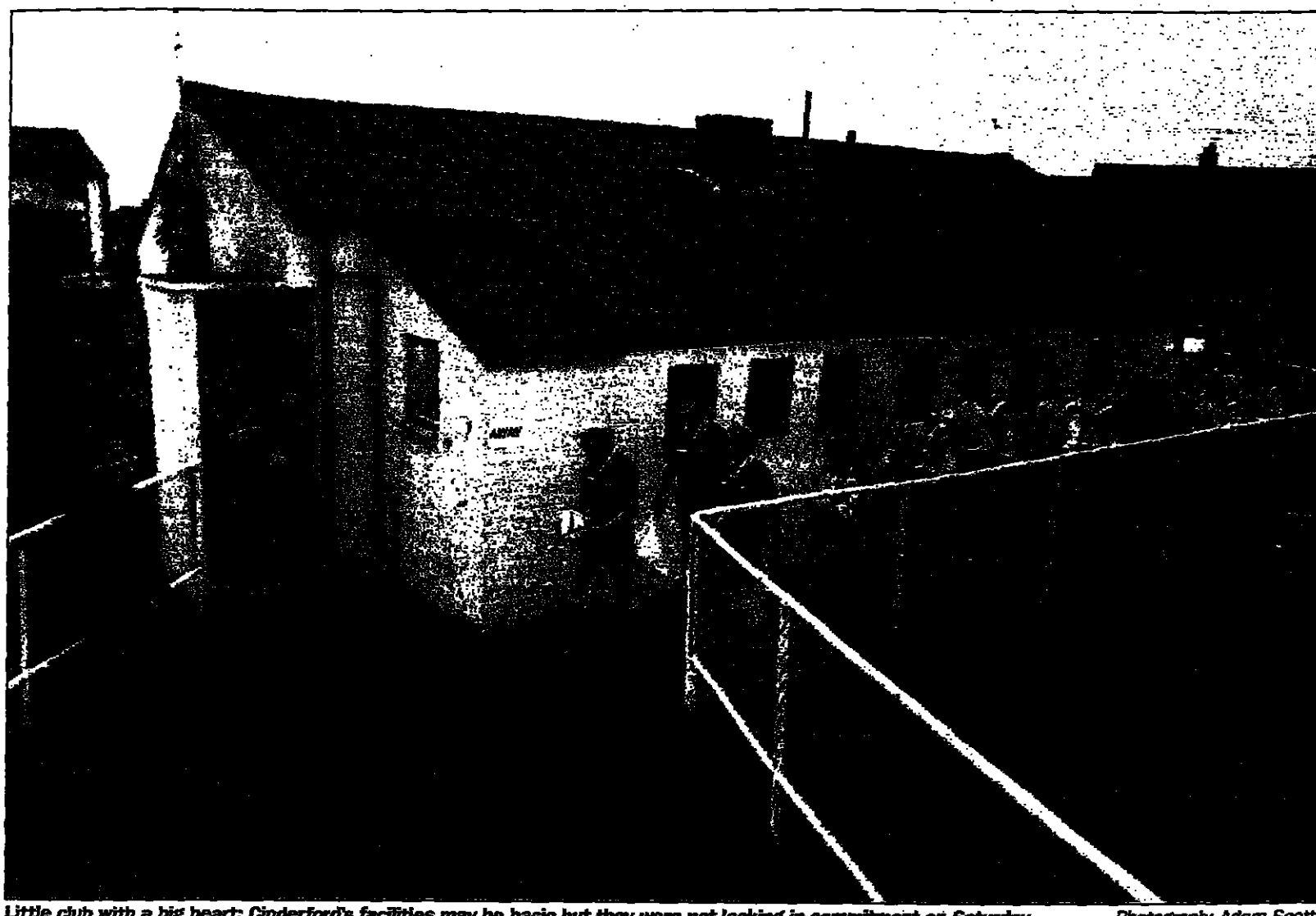
But for all the legends of Arthurian knights and wizards, the inhabitants are no more immune to the old pot's spell than anyone else. Any area with a heritage centre can always do with fresh romance, if only to focus pride on the present, and on Saturday the modern-day Foresters created a fairy-tale for themselves.

Cinderford Town, the Cinderella club of the FA Cup first round, twice got to the ball first and sent it into the back of the net. Bromsgrove Rovers may not be a League side, but the shock was a seismic one in the non-League world. It was also a vivid demonstration of the FA Cup's enduring potential for joy. Bromsgrove are one of the part-time game's big fish. Three years ago they missed promotion to the Football League by one place, two years ago they knocked Northampton out of the FA Cup and narrowly lost at Barnsley.

Cinderford are one of the minnows. Six years ago they were in the Gloucestershire County League playing in front of a cluster rather than a crowd, 30 being an average attendance.

Three promotions have carried them into the Beazer Homes League Southern Division, two grades below Bromsgrove. They have also levelled, at a cost of £70,000, a pitch which sloped 18 feet from one corner to the other – enough to make Yeovil's famous old Hush look like a bowling green.

There is no local Jack Walker involved. "This has been done," Chris Warren, the secretary, said, "through hard work and volunteers." This is the level where shirt sponsorship is sold by raffle; where supporters travel on the team coach; and where the club apologises for



Little club with a big heart: Cinderford's facilities may be basic but they were not lacking in commitment on Saturday

Photograph: Adam Scott

having to double its admission price (to £6) under FA regulations. It is a refreshing antidote to the growing greed of the professional game.

So, too, is the attitude of Chris Price. Five years ago he was playing against Internazionale for Aston Villa and he later became one of Kenny Dalglish's first signings for Blackburn Rovers. While he never played for England except at youth level, he did play at Wembley and San Siro. By the standards of his current team-mates, he has been there, done that, yet you could not have found a more committed player in the ground.

The 35-year-old scored the first and had a hand in the second. The effects of a viral infection then forced him off the pitch but not out of the action. As Cinderford hung on, Price, looking faintly comical in a red-and-white bobble hat, maintained a

high-decibel stream of cussing and cajoling. "Be strong, be strong," he barked.

They were, none more so than Gareth Howells, a centre-half with the build of a prop forward. Late on, he crashed into Ricky Carter, Bromsgrove's star striker, taking man, ball and half an acre of sodden sod. As Carter, who had not been fit enough to start, understandably reacted angrily and the referee reached for his yellow card, Price turned away, purring "Yes".

Alongside Howells was Chris Boxall, a Wembley veteran of the 1987 FA Trophy with Kidderminster. In attack was Danny Hill, who had scored 12 goals in 19 games and looked capable of playing at a much higher level. Hill was one of four local lads, no mean achievement in an area where most schools play rugby.

Cinderford's giantkilling was

the very stuff of the FA Cup's romance. This was their first appearance in the competition proper and within half a mile of the ground sheep can be seen grazing alongside the high street while hens peck in back gardens. The ground has exposed grass banking on three sides and 250 seats (concrete benches) in all.

The occasion was as gripping as the Cup will offer all season. On a mudbath pitch, it was hardly the football we need to develop to succeed in Europe but it was compelling entertainment.

From the first, Bromsgrove looked stronger, fitter and sharper. But for an outstanding save by Russ Bowles they would have been ahead within 17 minutes. Then Cinderford scored in their first sustained attack. A large deflection looped Chris Smith's cross over Chris Taylor, Bromsgrove's goalkeeper, and Price tapped in.

Eighteen minutes later, after another excellent save by Bowles, Hill drove a loose ball through a crowd of players after John Hamilton's cross and Price's hustling had caused problems. From then on, it was a matter of hanging on.

As the fog rolled in, making the players look like spooky silhouettes in the wan glow of the recently installed floodlights, Bromsgrove piled forward. Shots were blocked, went wide, or hit the side-netting. Bowles, a former boxer, dropped the ball in the box but recovered; a corner fell at Andy Dale's feet but he could not react in time; a bad back-pass was hacked clear and 19 corners went begging.

With 10 minutes left, Howells brought down Jimmy Skelding in the area and the full-back got up to convert the penalty. Cinderford bordered on panic, but Howells cleared off the

line and they even survived four minutes of added time.

Tim Harris, who has been manager for most of the past eight years, said words could not express his delight. Price, more accustomed to the media glare, found some. "It is even better than the good times with Villa," he said. "I am so pleased for them," he added, gesturing around a jubilant dressing-room. "They have proved there is not much difference in the standard; we had the will to win."

"We are 90 minutes from the big boys," Harris said. First, however, it is back to the bread and butter. Next Saturday the visitors are Erith and Belvedere. Goals: Price (22) 1-0; Hill (50) 2-0; Skelding (60) 2-1.

Cinderford Town (2-5-2); Bowles: Cote, Bland, Howells; Price (22), Hill, Hamilton, Carter, Wilson (18), Howells, Hill, Cote. Substitutes not used: Harris, Bromsgrove Rovers (3-5-2): Taylor, Douling, Carter, Hill, Richardson, Rafter, Skelding, Smith, Gosport, Crisp, Brennan, Dale, Robinson (Pace), 70. Substitutes not used: Gosport, Rafter, Hill (18) (Goal).

Cardiff too polished for Diamonds



Wearing a vindicated smile, Kenny Hibbitt addressed the press back with Bradfordian bluntness. "You're all sick as pigs, aren't you?" the Cardiff City manager said after a 3-1 win at Rushden and Diamonds. "You're only here because you expected them to knock us over."

It was a fair cop. The dozen or so vultures, including your correspondent, could only curse Cardiff's failure to fulfil their allotted role against the Beazer Homes League leaders. We dispersed, envying those who had alighted on one of the upsets of the FA Cup's first round: at Gravesend and Northfleet, where Colchester fell 2-0; Bury, scene of Blyth Spartans' victory by the same score; or Hitchin, who beat Bristol Rovers 2-1.

There is, of course, a glorious lack of logic to it all. None of the trio who overcame full-time opposition on Saturday play in the senior non-League competition, the GM Vanthall Conference, from which, remarkably, only Telford are definitely through to the second round.

Gravesend are 12 places and 14 points adrift of Rushden and Diamonds, while Colchester stand 16 rungs higher than Cardiff. All of which counted for nothing as "the Fleet" sailed into the second round for the first time in 32 years.

Blyth's last Cup run took them rather further, to the brink of the quarter-finals in 1978. Now in the UniBond League, they produced the display of the day at Gigg Lane, Hitchin, 16th in the Ics League Premier Division, stunned Rovers twice in nine minutes and then restricted the Second Division side to a solitary goal.

The last time Rovers lost to non-League opponents – at Kettering, a few miles from the Irthlingborough base of Rushden and Diamonds – Hibbitt was their assistant manager. The former Wolves midfielder has since been in charge of a Walsall team beaten at home by Yeovil, and he admitted that such experiences informed his pre-match exhortation: "I told them: 'Don't get the headlines tomorrow!'"

Phil Shaw sees a potential FA Cup first-round upset come to naught.

That dubious privilege was seldom likely to be theirs once Les Jarman, a 17-year-old Hibbitt, added to Alan Hansen, and added to Carl Dale's opener. The Diamonds sparked briefly after Al-James Hannigan scored at a time when Cardiff, in their manager's words, were "still having their half-time cuppa". Dale's diving header, a gem denied to a wider audience by the mysterious absence of Match of the Day, finished these off.

As he surveyed the splendour of Nene Park, Hibbitt put his finger on a key factor in Cardiff's managing to avoid a repetition of the embarrassments inflicted by Bath, Hayes and Exeter in recent seasons. Put simply, the Diamonds' futuristic facilities, bankrolled by £10m from the Doc Martens shoe-making empire, may be too welcoming for their own good.

Would-be giantkillers do not need a sloping quagmire to play on, partisan support inches from the touchline, or a damp dressing-room with lukewarm tea for their visitors. But it certainly helps. Despite a day of rain, the surface was perfect. Most of the 4,212 spectators watched from the comfort of a seat, and the Cardiff players could even wind down (or up) in a Jacuzzi.

"I told my lads it would suit us better than them," Hibbitt said. "It's a superb place to play, and that lifts teams when they come here. It was the same when we opened the new ground at Walsall. Everyone wanted to perform on it."

Disappointed as the Diamonds were, their manager Roger Ashby was not merely trotting out a cliché by suggesting that Wednesday's match at VS Rugby was more important. "See you in the Conference next year," a fogsman fan kept shouting at the Welsh contingent. Or even, he might have added, in the Football League the year after.

Pickering tries to curb Derby's sternest critic

After more than 30 years reporting their affairs, Derby's match against West Bromwich represented a routine Baseball Ground Saturday for sportswriter Neil Hallam... in all but one respect. Instead of occupying his regular place in the press box, Hallam's viewpoint was a £12 seat in the grandstand. In the latest example of a club attempting to censor the media, the Derby chairman, Lionel Pickering, who has invested £12m in trying – in vain – to win a place in the Premiership, has barred Hallam from press facilities at the club.

Pickering took exception, apparently, to the tone of Hallam's

comments in his column in Derby's free newspaper, *The Trader*, even though he insists he has "bent over backwards to be fair to Jim Smith (manager since June) after the situation he inherited."

This is just a teeny bit rich. Hallam has been penning his observations no less outspokenly in *The Trader* since 1968, with the full backing of the man who started it... one Lionel Pickering, who recently sold the paper, as part of a thriving group, for an estimated £26m.

The irony is that he was a brilliant proprietor who could not have given more support," Hallam said. "Brian Clough once banned him from the ground."

of Jimmy Hill, who turned out to be the architect of their rise. And, lest anyone at Molineux should think the current crisis is deep enough, remember 24 November, 1986 and this first round, second replay scoreline: Chorley 3 Wolves 0. The highest point in Chorley's history was possibly the lowest for Wolves, who had been in Europe six years earlier. Newly relegated to the Fourth Division and deeply in debt, the outlook was bleak. Just as well that, during the same week, the manager, Graham Turner, took on an unknown cast-off from West Brom by the name of Steve Bull.

That was the weekend that was

by Jon Culley

Bruno loves the rough stuff

Andrea Sileri may be champing at the bit but not so the other Serie A exports seeking to settle in Britain. Mario Bonetti, the Forest striker's former Torino chum, turned in another sparkling show for Grimsby on Saturday, while the likelihood of Pasquale Bruno signing for Hearts moved a step closer.

After three trial matches, Bruno, another ex-Torino player more recently with Fiorentina, is already at ease with the Scottish game. "It is a battle – but that's what I like," he said. "In Italy the game is too technical – you can't make a tackle any more." He should know. Having missed 50 games through suspension, his reputation at home is roughly on a par with that of Vinnie Jones.

But he is not without an appreciation of culture. "I love Edinburgh," he said, "it is like Florence." One cannot quite imagine Grimsby having a similar lure for Bonetti, but who knows?

Red card
STAN COLLYMORE
...for failing to accept that no player is bigger than his club. Collymore's first months at Liverpool have clearly been difficult, but it is surely up to him to earn his place in the first team. Complaining in public about his treatment will do nothing to change his image as a "difficult" individual who has trouble fitting into a team.

ENDSLEIGH XI

TEAM OF THE WEEKEND			
PORTER	NEWSOME	WILKINSON	SANDFORD
PORT VALL	NEWSOME	WILKINSON	SANDFORD
UNION	NEWSOME	WILKINSON	SANDFORD
STONING	NEWSOME	WILKINSON	SANDFORD

Franky speaking
"Some lunatic fans who had a go at him earlier in the season now think he's brilliant, but he's useless when he plays for 90 minutes. So I'll keep using him as sub."

19
The number of minutes Paul Moody took to score three of Oxford's nine, the highest of his Sunday hat-tricks.

4,000
The full-house crowd at Luton's first match at Adams Park, where Stuart Pearce scored twice for the Hatters.

4
The goals shared on Saturday by the Sunderland strikers, one for Derby's Stuart Pearce, one for Stoke's Simon.

'Better side' loses 11-2

What do you say to a team who have just lost 11-2? Not a lot, according to Roy Howard, the manager charged with lifting the spirits of poor old Marine, of the UniBond League, after their FA Cup drubbing at Shrewsbury Town.

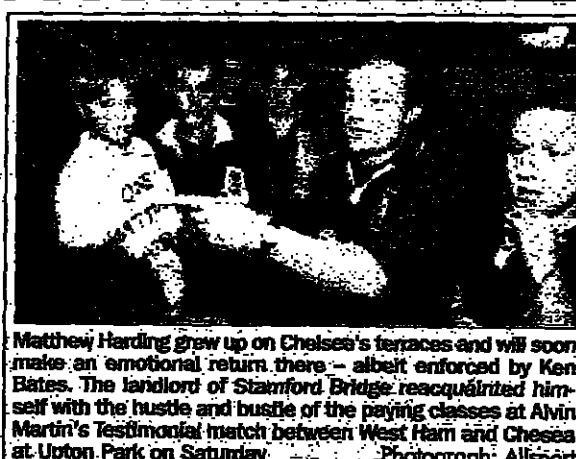
"To be frank – and you couldn't say this before – with the side we put out it would have been a miracle if we'd got anything from the game," Howard said, "although that's not an excuse. I've just told them to take Tuesday off and we'll start again on Thursday."

The players held an impromptu wake back home in Crosby, the mood at which was not helped by Match of the Day mercilessly showing all 11 goals with "Always look on the bright side of life" as a soundtrack – but, in fact, the choice could not have been more appropriate.

"It may sound deaf," Howard said, "but until we let in those three goals just before half-time I thought we were the better side."

Take a bow

FULHAM
...for recording the result of the round in the FA Cup. The Third Division side's 7-0 victory over Second Division Swindon City was a club record winning margin in the Cup. It brought well-deserved cheer to fans who have had little to celebrate since they were relegated to the League's bottom division this summer for the first time in their history.



Matthew Harding grew up on Chelsea's terraces and will soon make an emotional return there – albeit enforced by Ken Bates. The landlord of Stamford Bridge reacquainted himself with the hustle and bustle of the paying classes at Alvin Herring's testimonial match between West Ham and Chelsea at Upton Park on Saturday.

Rumours
Fact and fiction from the Sunday papers.
As if Stan Collymore's widely reported threat to quit was not enough, the People reckons that Liverpool have another rebellious crew member on their hands in Neil Ruddock, who is reported to be seeking assurances about his future after losing his first-team place.

The People also claims a £3m bid by Arsenal for Blackburn's Graeme Le Saux, although Ray Harford does not want to sell, and suggests Paul Ince will become a £8.5m capture for Newcastle this week.

Meanwhile, the News of the World reckons that Lee Sharpe, unable to hold down a place with Manchester United, has enlisted agent Dennis Roach to help him find a new club, possibly in Italy.

KINGSIZE

RIZLA

0791 20 1520

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973).

£1.6m signing from Bristol Rovers, looking increasingly ill at ease. Andy Roberts, a £2.3m purchase from Millwall, was their most accomplished player, but Palace must wonder how much longer they can afford to play a midfielder of his ability in the centre of a five-man defence.

Goalkeepers: Keith Johnson (44) + 0.

Defence: Gareth City (4-4-2); Gunn; Bradshaw; Williams; Little; Jones; Crook (Adams, 21), Johnson (Akpanji, n-t); Eadie; Ward, Field. *Substitutes not used:* Marshall.

Midfield:

Crystal Palace (5-3-2): Martyn, Edworthy, Pringle, Roberts, Coleman, Vincent; Hopz; Freeman, Pitcher, Taylor, Day (McKenzie, 56), Johnson (Akpanji, 46), Williams, Sparrow.

Referee: T.E.W. Smith.

SPORT

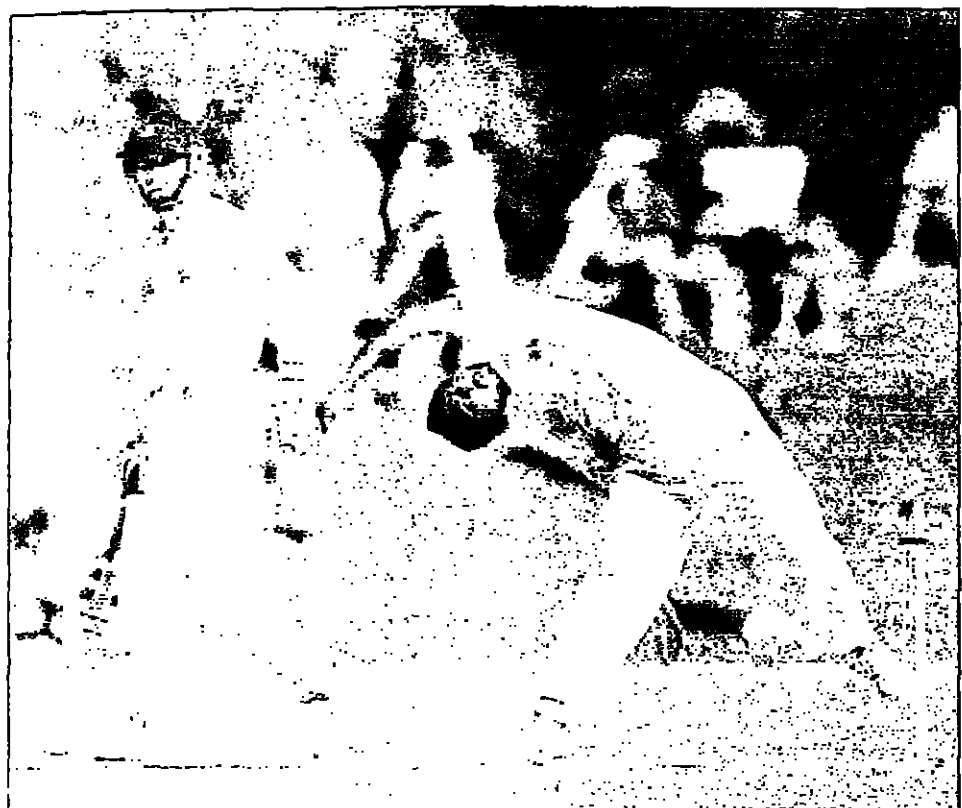
FA CUP FIRST ROUND

Cinderford's ball

30 & 31

GYMNASTICS

The new waifs



Over and out: Paul Adams, the 18-year-old South African A left-arm wrist spinner whose action has been likened to 'a frog in a blender', shows the style that defeated England in Kimberley yesterday. Adams, who is 5ft 5in, bowls a mixture of googlies and chinamen. As he delivers the ball, he points his head first at the sky and then at the wicket. His unorthodox action certainly bewildered England, who lost by six wickets. Photographs: Graham Chadwick/Visp

Familiar script as England fall apart

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Kimberley South Africa A 470-9 dec and 148 England 308 and 309 South Africa A win by six wickets

It is now a firmly established winter tour tradition for England to con the opposition into thinking that they are bound to be made of sterner stuff when the serious business begins. It is only when the opposition wins the first Test by a landslide that they realise they've been had.

threatened to be totally useless in Australia, and duly were. Ditto the West Indies in 1993, ditto India in 1992. The script rarely varies, even if the personnel does, and listening to Raymond Illingworth yesterday ("nowhere near good enough... more dedication and concentration required...") brought back not so distant echoes of brassed-off generals of yesteryear.

land is that the chairman rarely gets over-cerebral in his post-mortems, although he himself is looking for a bit more between his players' ears by the time the Test series gets under way on Thursday. "It's more of a mental thing than anything else" he said. "It's been bloody hot here, and maybe the sun has gone to their heads. But, on that pitch, someone should have made a major score."

pe and Mark Ramprakash not spilled two more yesterday. South Africa A might have struggled to make the 148 they needed to win from 43 overs. This would have been considerably less had it not been for the valiant batting contributions of Jack Russell (93 not out and 40 in a combined total of five hours at the crease) and, somewhat more improbably, Devon Malcolm. "He's a great pro's Jack," Illingworth said afterwards, a phrase he has not been in danger of using in close proximity to Malcolm's name thus far on tour.

truly hopeless. No 11's all around the world. Yesterday, as Malcolm joined Angus Fraser, England were only 89 runs ahead, and the not unreasonable assumption was that South Africa's victory target would not be substantially greater than 90. However, those spectators quietly griddling sausages on their brains suddenly began diving for cover as Malcolm's aerial bombardment produced sixes and two fours in a mind-boggling 48 not out.

Not so long ago, the middle of Malcolm's bat was rarely blemished by anything resembling a red smudge, and it is hard to know why he now misses as much as he misses. The switch from glasses to contact lenses would be a more convincing theory if there was any evidence that Malcolm kept his eyes open in mid-swing.

England would have been embarrassed enough here at being asked to follow on, although it at least made certain that Robin Smith had two innings in which to find his form before the Test match. Smith did not, like most of England's other batsmen, play the left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams (9 for 181) with any great conviction, but scores of 48 and 28 will probably be just enough to keep him in the side ahead of John Crawley.

England, however, also did just enough to suggest that if this series equated to a 9 to 5 office job, the alarm clock once again appears to be set for lunchtime.



Hill conducts the crowd in singing the national anthem

Hill finds it easy to steer clear of trouble

Motor racing

Damon Hill ended the 1995 Formula One motor racing season in style yesterday when he won a chaotic Australian Grand Prix in commanding fashion. Hill guided his Williams-Renault through the debris of countless retirements and crashes to finish more than two laps clear of Olivier Panis in a Ligier. The victory was Hill's 13th and came on a day when all his major rivals, including the world champion Michael Schumacher, were forced to retire.

It was a sweet victory for Hill, who had been heavily criticised for failing to maintain his championship challenge to Schumacher. He said: "This is a very satisfying and special victory for me and for the team. We have had a long season and this gives us cause for celebration. It is my 13th victory and I had begun to wonder when it would come. But everything went my way today. It is a tough circuit and a tough race and this is a funny old game, isn't it?"

and waiting for something to happen to me. As a guy in Perth taught me to say last week, it was 'too easy, mate'. It was a strange race, but I will take it. "We had been hoping for a result like this over the last couple of races, but it did not happen so this was a great boost for the team. It is a great trophy to have - and what a race to win. I can sit on it for the winter now."

The race had started surprisingly with David Coulthard beating Hill, on pole position, to the chequered flag. Schumacher, starting third, was left behind both Ferraris but fought back to regain fourth place on the opening lap.

Coulthard led until lap 20 when, on the approach to his pit-stop, he slid off the track and crashed into the pit-lane wall. Schumacher and Jean Alesi collided on lap 22. Schumacher appeared to have passed Alesi cleanly, but the Ferrari driver retaliated and cut into him, damaging his rear wheel and suspension. Schumacher felt he had a good chance of winning the race at that stage and

was disappointed with Alesi's move. "He had no chance of passing me and it was a wrong move," he said. "But it has been a great season so I just want to forget it and have a party."

The retirements and accidents also claimed Schumacher's teammate, Johnny Herbert, who was second behind Hill when he retired with a gearbox problem. Both Jordans also joined the list of parked cars - Eddie Irvine retiring with engine problems after running third and Rubens Barrichello sliding off in the early stages. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who had also been second at one stage, also pulled up with gearbox problems.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2830, Monday 13 November By Portia

ACROSS

1 Constructive form of exercise? (4-8)
8 Stick out of screen (7)
9 Boxer's easy pace? (7)
11 Helping with a quarter of provisions (7)
12 Check cost (7)
13 Island is within mortar range (5)
14 Beat fast time to achieve first-class result (9)
16 It keeps young consumers in their place (9)
19 Many in political faction hold firm (5)
21 Make up for the rest (7)
23 Staff on appointment acquire authority (7)

DOWN

1 Straw packed round lake fish (7)
2 Go on losing and become subdued (3,4)
3 Hardy girl who married David? (9)
4 Can't begin to trace American banker (5)
5 Good thing to put in phone for computer type (7)

24 Poet's key, say, included in index (7)
25 Silk routes diverted around South (7)
26 Sorts out these places before European race (12)

6 Managed to come up with standard report (7)
7 Friendly attitude apt to be put on (12)
10 Harshly criticise break up (4,2,6)
15 Coach trim's wrongly coloured (9)
17 Force the Italian guy to become lyricist (7)
18 Keep company with new brandy (7)
19 Preserve a deer, being short of game (7)
20 Is said to be fashionable in Paris (1,2,4)
22 Applaud former duty, by the sound of it (5)

Backing for Venables

Football

GLENN MOORE

An influential voice made itself heard above the whispers surrounding Terry Venables' control of the England team yesterday. Noel White, the chairman of the Football Association's international committee, came down firmly in support of Venables' continued tenure as national coach.

White, a director of Liverpool, was speaking after an unnamed member of the committee was quoted at the weekend saying that the constant speculation surrounding Venables' business affairs was "worrying" the committee. That suggestion was followed by Venables' revelation that he had asked Scotland Yard to investigate an alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of justice against him. Venables believes the timing of the various allegations - usually around England matches - underlines his belief that there is a "concerted and organised campaign" to discredit him. The latest allegations came in a court case last week.

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Collymore threatens to quit

Britain's costliest footballer Stan Collymore has threatened to leave the game, saying his £8.5m summer move to Liverpool has proved a nightmare. Collymore, who left Nottingham Forest for a British record transfer fee in the summer, has made little impact at Anfield where he cannot hold down a regular first team place. He has admitted finding it difficult adjusting to Liverpool's passing style, and is quoted in an interview in Four-Four-Two magazine as saying he is prepared to leave the game.

Collymore does not make any secret in the interview of his disappointment at the way his move to Liverpool has gone. "My ideas on big clubs have

changed. You think you're going to something superior in every way," he says. "So many clubs - I've got to be careful here - are a shambles. You go there thinking they're going to be centres of excellence and they are far from it. I thought the training would be as good, if not better, than at Forest."

Collymore, back from helping Brazil to beat Argentina 1-0, lit up a niggling match against Sampdoria to mark the official opening of Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium. He set up Bryan Robson with the day's best chance, but his manager missed and the game ended goalless.

MORSE

Sun launches Ultra 1.

The new Sun Microsystems Ultra 1 workstation is the first to feature UltraSPARC, Sun's new processor architecture for the millennium.

Call Morse for an Executive Briefing.

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EU audit £2bn